A.

Title: Affective Potentialities: Religion, Aesthetics, and the Reimagining of Subjectivity by Writers of Color in the Americas

Moderator: Lyn Di Iorio, the City University of New York

1. Richard Perez, John Jay College, CUNY. “Potentiality of the Subject: Privation, Non-Being, and Nihilism in Autobiography of My Mother by Jamaica Kincaid and We the Animals by Justin Torres” (rperez@jjay.cuny.edu)

2. Victoria A. Chevalier, Medgar Evers College, CUNY. “Sick of the Symbolic: Interpellative Escape and Shaping the Passages to the Real Through Trance in Lyn Dilorio Sandin’s Outside the Bones and Toni Cade Bambara’s The Salt Eaters” (vchevalier@mec.cuny.edu)

3. Chad Infante, Northwestern University. “Murder and the Divine Life of Race in Red and Black: On Leslie Marmon Silko’s ‘Tony’s Story’ and Audre Lorde’s ‘Power’” (ChadInfante2016@u.northwestern.edu)

B.

Title: Working Women in African American Literature

Moderator:

1. Rachel Banner, “The Private Pleasures of Work in Early African American Women's Writing” (RBanner@wcupa.edu)

2. Kelly Masterson, "Alternate Spaces of Light and Shade": Theater and the African American Working Woman in Paul Laurence Dunbar’s The Sport of the Gods (km603806@ohio.edu)

Thursday, March 3

Session II: 3:15-4:45 pm
A.
Title: Pedagogies of the Multi-Ethnic and Multicultural
Moderator:
1. Mayuri Deka, The College of the Bahamas. “Multicultural within the Classroom: Promoting an Empathic Citizenry” (mayurideka@yahoo.co.in)

2. Valerie Frazier, College of Charleston. “‘Teaching the Charleston’: Teaching the Literature of the Black Arts Movement in Context with the Emanuel 9 Tragedy, Black Lives Matter, and the Charleston Strong Movement” (frazierv@cofc.edu)

6:00 Welcome Reception

7:00 p.m. Special Panel: Michele Reutter, University of Cincinnati.

African American Poetry Connections in Cincinnati: A Demonstration and Roundtable Discussion of African American Poetry in Action
In response to killing of Sam DuBose, who was fatally shot by a University of Cincinnati police officer this past August. (reuttemm@ucmail.uc.edu)

Participants:
Marsha Jenkins, an English MA candidate at NKU, is a UC alum with majors in English and Africana Studies. Alexis Jackson is a senior majoring in English. Tiara Peeples and Sarah Rieser are also UC seniors, majoring in Africana Studies and Middle Childhood education, respectively.

Friday, March 4
Session III: 8:30-10:00 am

A.
Title: Locating Borderless Southern Identities
Moderator:

1. Maria Orban, Fayetteville State University. “Destabilizing Fictions: The Afterlife of an Indian Outlaw in Nowhere Else On Earth” by Josephine Humphreys” (morban@uncfsu.edu)
2. Justin Melette, Pennsylvania State University. “You didn’t see color you saw dirt’: Southern Racial Ideology in the Works of Monique Truong and Cynthia Kadohata” (tjm5484@psu.edu)
3. Jill Weber, University of South Carolina. “Epicurean Performance: Food, Geography, and Race in Contending Forces” (weberjm@email.sc.edu)

B.
Title: Red, Black, Both: Reading African-American and Native-American Interactions
Moderator:

1. Stella Setka, Loyola Marymount University. “Reconciling Black-Red Relations through the Phantasmic Narrative” (stella.setka@lmu.edu).
2. Tru Leverette, University of North Florida. “Gestures of Belonging: The Professor’s Daughter and the Languages of Longing and Belonging” (stella.setka@lmu.edu)
3. Keely Byars-Nichols, University of Mount Olive. “Exploring Native American and African American Shared Histories in Tiya Miles’ The Cherokee Rose” (kbyars-nichols@umo.edu)

C.
Title: Charleston and the Lowcountry
Moderator:

1. SallyAnn H. Ferguson, University of North Carolina at Greensboro. "Biological Race, 'Race'/Racism and Dylann Roof's Alleged 'Manifesto'" (shfergus@uncg.edu)
2. Jennie Lightweis-Goff, Tulane University. "Charleston is a Small Place: Literature and Tourism in a Season of Horror” (jilightwe@tulane.edu)
3. Keith Byerman, Indiana State University. “Hybridity, Commodification, and Gullah Culture” (Keith.Byerman@indstate.edu)
Friday, March 4
Session III: 8:30-10:00 am

D. Title: Performance in Latino/a Literature
Moderator:

1. Donna M. Kabalen de Bichara, Tecnológico de Monterrey. “Performing Autobiography and Identity in The Adventures of Don Chipote, or When Parrots Breast-Feed by Daniel Venegas” (dkabalen@itesm.mx)


3. Selena Larkin, University of South Carolina. “A Complicated Dance: Gender Performance in Helena Maria Viramontes’s Under the Feet of Jesus” (rosesg@mailbox.sc.edu)

4. Maya Socolovsky, UNC Charlotte. “Running and Reading: Border Crossings & Migrant Workers in U.S. Latino/a Children’s Picture Books” (msocolov@uncc.edu)

E. Title: “Cultural Transformation in Contemporary Arab American Literature: Nepantla, Humor, and the Veil"
Moderator: Lena Zaghmouri, State Center Community College District

1. Lena Zaghmouri, State Center Community College District. “Locating the Nepantla in Naomi Shihab Nye’s You & Yours and 19 Varieties of Gazelle” (lena.zaghmouri@scccd.edu)

2. Linda Maloul, Effat University. “Arab American 9/11 Fiction: Humour in Frances Khirallah Noble’s The New Belly Dancer of the Galaxy” (lmaloul@effatuniversity.edu.sa)

3. Nancy El Gendy, University of Nevada, Reno. “Veiling, Unveiling, Reveiling in Mohja Kahf’s The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf” (nelgendy@ou.edu)
Title: **Brown Girls Dreaming and Grieving**

**Moderator:** Matthew Miller, University of South Carolina, Aiken

1. Matthew Miller, University of South Carolina Aiken. “Paule Marshall: My Place is No Longer Here” ([MatthewM@usca.edu](mailto:MatthewM@usca.edu))

2. Elizabeth Pittman. "'Your Memory, Vessel of Your Feelings': Nausea and Mourning Sickness in Claudia Rankine's *Citizen*" ([epittman@marymount.edu](mailto:epittman@marymount.edu))

3. P. Jane Splawn, Livingstone College. “Dreams of a ‘Brown Girl’ in South Carolina in Jacqueline Woodson's *Brown Girl Dreaming*” ([jsplawn@livingstone.edu](mailto:jsplawn@livingstone.edu))

**Friday, March 4**

**Session IV: 10:15-11:45 am**

**A.**

**Title: Food as Expressions of Multiculturalism**

**Moderator:**

1. Marie Drews, Luther College. "The astrologer who floats cross-legged above my kitchen stove': Food Spaces and Contested Fate in Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*” ([drewsmar@luther.edu](mailto:drewsmar@luther.edu))

2. Rocco Marinaccio, Manhattan College. “We All Have to Eat: Foodways, Identity, and the Environment in the Novels of T. C. Boyle” ([rocco.marinaccio@manhattan.edu](mailto:rocco.marinaccio@manhattan.edu))

**B.**

**Title: Black Masculinities and Femininities**

**Moderator:**

1. Nathan Ragain, University of Nevada, Reno. “Choreographing Corrections: for colored guys who have gone beyond suicide and found no rainbow” ([nragain@unr.edu](mailto:nragain@unr.edu))
2. Lamar Garnes, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. “Woman Hustled: the Function of Hustler Masculinity in Elaine Brown's *A Taste of Power: a Black Woman's Story*” (lamar.garnes@famu.edu)

3. Melanie Sherazi, UCLA. "'My Life's a Book': Listening to Mona Pariss in William Demby's *Love Story Black* (1978)” (msherazi@ucla.edu)

C. Title: MELUS Women of Color Caucus Forum: “Doing the Literature”: Making the Literature Engage with Contemporary Social Movements

Moderators:
- A Yemisi Jimoh, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (jimoh@afroam.umass.edu) and
- Kimberly Mack, University of Toledo (mackprod@hotmail.com)

D. Title: African American Mobility

Moderator:

1. Gary Totten, North Dakota State University. “Travel, African Mobility, and *The Crisis*” (Gary.Totten@ndsu.edu)

2. Jennifer Blevins, University of South Carolina. “'[T]his thing that she had done to herself'; Female Mobility and Agency in Nella Larsen’s *Quicksand*.” (jblevins00@hotmail.com)

3. Kerstin Rudolph, University of Mississippi. “‘Doin’ The Charleston’ in New York: Negotiating Race, Ethnicity, and Reform in Alice Dunbar-Nelson’s *The Annals of ‘Steenth Street*” (krudolph@brockport.edu)

E. Title: Religion and the Multiethnic Experience in Contemporary American Literature

Moderators: J. Stephen Pearson (stpears11@gmail.com) and Rachel Luckenbill (stpears11@gmail.com)
1. Kate Beutel, Lourdes University. “Damien's Successors: Religious Figures in Erdrich's *The Plague of Doves* and *The Round House*” (kbeutel@lourdes.edu)

2. Rachel Luckenbill, Duquesne University. “Disconnect and Articulation: Exploring Multi-ethnic Identity and Faith in Diane Glancy’s Fiction” (luckenbillr@duq.edu)

3. Paul Corrigan, Southeastern University. “Religious Exile in Li-Young Lee’s Poetry” (ptcorrigan@gmail.com)

F. Title: Latina Dreams and Identity Politics
Moderator:

1. Karen Cruz Stapleton, North Carolina State University. “Performing Food, Performing Politics in Garcia’s *Dreaming in Cuban*” (kmstaple@ncsu.edu)

2. Ande Davis, University of Missouri-Kansas City. “Latinas Bearing Magic” (adc77@mail.umkc.edu)

3. Allison Van, Fayetteville State University. “Negotiating Cuban and American Migration and Identities: Performing Racial, Gender, Sexual and Class Identities in Cristina Garcia’s *Dreaming in Cuban* (1992)” (avannyhu@uncfsu.edu)

G. Title: DuBose Heyward from a Transatlantic World Perspective
Moderator:

1. John Lowe, University of Georgia. “DuBose Heyward’s CircumCaribbean Ethnicities” (jwlowe@uga.edu)

2. Ren Denton, East Georgia State College, Statesboro. “Performing Womanist Perceptions of African Motherhood and Spirituality in Heyward’s *Mamba’s Daughter* and Naylor's *Mama Day*” (gdenton@ega.edu)

3. Sidonia Serafini, University of Georgia. “The Bells of St. Michael’s: Church Bells and Southern Identity in DuBose Heyward’s Poetry” (sidonia.serafini@uga.edu)
12:00-2:00
Membership lunch, featuring Michele Elam, Keynote Address, and MELUS Awards

**Topic: Doing Race Face to Face**

Michele Elam is a Stanford University Professor, Olivier Nomellini Family University Fellow in Undergraduate Education, Director of the Graduate Program in Modern Thought and Literature (MTL), and author of *Race, Work, and Desire in American Literature, 1860-1930*, *The Souls of Mixed Folk: Race, Politics, and Aesthetics in the New Millennium* (Stanford University Press, 2011), and she is editor of the *Cambridge Companion to James Baldwin*.

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**Friday, March 4**

**Session V: 2:15-3:45 pm**

A.

**Title:** Preparing for the Job Market: A Professionalism Workshop for Grad Students

**Moderator:** Amy Gore, University of New Mexico (gorea@unm.edu)

1. Martha Cutter, University of Connecticut (martha.cutter@uconn.edu)

2. Cristina Stanciu, Virginia Commonwealth University (cstanciu@vcu.edu)

3. Tracy Floreani, Oklahoma City University (tafloreani@okcu.edu)

4. Jorge Santos, College of the Holy Cross (jsantos@holycross.edu)
B. 
**Title:** "PerFORMance: Reinventing and Revising Literary Form in Multi-Ethnic Literature"  
**Moderators:** Leah Milne, University of Indianapolis, and Erin Wedehase, Wake Technical Community College

1. Andrew Pisano, University of North Carolina, Greensboro. “‘My Broken Hints to Appear in the Word’: Samson Occom’s *A Sermon, Preached at the Execution of Moses Paul, an Indian* and the Discursive Formation of Native Solidarity” ([ampisano@uncg.edu](mailto:ampisano@uncg.edu))

2. Erin Wedehase, Wake Technical Community College. “Onoto Watanna’s Revisions of Regionalism in *The Diary of Delia*” ([ehwedehase@waketech.edu](mailto:ehwedehase@waketech.edu))

3. Dan Burns, Elon University. “Toward a Mestiza Modernism: Multi-Ethnic Canon Formation and the Borderland Discourses of Gayl Jones’s *Mosquito*” ([dburns2@elon.edu](mailto:dburns2@elon.edu))

4. " ([dburns2@elon.edu](mailto:dburns2@elon.edu))

5. Leah Milne, University of Indianapolis. Composure and Composition in Gina Apostol’s *The Gun Dealers’ Daughter*” ([milnel@unindy.edu](mailto:milnel@unindy.edu))

C. 
**Title:** “From Charleston (and Middlebury, NYC, Miami, and Tucson) to Hispaniola and Back: Latina/o and Caribbean Diasporic Writers in the Age of Statelessness, Censorship, and Border Militarization”  
**Moderator:** Marion Rohrleitner, University of Texas at El Paso

1. Marion Rohrleitner, University of Texas at El Paso. "The Diaspora Strikes Back: From Librotraficantes to Open-eds” ([mrohrleitner@utep.edu](mailto:mrohrleitner@utep.edu))

2. Sobeira Latorre, University of Southern Connecticut. “Haiti on her Mind: Memory, Loss, and Reconciliation in Julia Alvarez’s *A Wedding in Haiti*” ([latorres1@southernct.edu](mailto:latorres1@southernct.edu))

3. Nelly Rosario, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. “Doing the Charleston: Guarding Self or Welcoming Other?” ([rosariver@gmail.com](mailto:rosariver@gmail.com))
D. Title: The Persistence of the Color Line: Colorism in Morrison’s *The Bluest Eye* and Still’s Opera *Troubled Island*

Moderator:

1. Katherine V. Tsiopos Wills, Indiana University-Purdue. “Colorism on the Operatic Stage: William Grant Still’s *Troubled Island* and the Relationship between Libretto and Musical Procedure” (kwills@iupuc.edu)


3. Brittany Talissa King, Indiana University-Purdue University. “From Super Black to Lucky Blue: The Persistence of Colorism in the Twenty-First Century.” (Brtking.7@gmail.com)

E. Title: Harriet Jacobs and the Slave Narrative Tradition

Moderator:

1. Genevieve Hay, Tufts University. “Songs of Sorrow and Resistance in Douglass's *Narrative* and Jacobs’ *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*” (genevieve.hay@tufts.edu)

2. Courtney Ferriter. “Double-Voiced Ethos and Motivation: Signifyin(g) in Harriet Jacobs' *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*” (cferriter@gmail.com)

3. Toni Calbert, Ohio State University. “Rejecting the Masters' Narrative: Refusal of Rape in *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* and *Kindred*” (calbert.5@osu.edu)

F. Title: Barnstorming and Flight: "The Road" as Trope in Multi-Ethnic Literature

Moderator:

1. Michael Antonucci (mantonucci@keene.edu)
2. Garin Cycholl (gcycholl@iun.edu)

G.
Title: Black Female Sexuality and Desire in and Multi Literature
Moderator:

1. J. Brendan Shaw. “Queering ‘Black’ and ‘Lesbian’ in Cheryl Dunye’s Documentary Style (jbrendanshaw@gmail.com)

2. Julia Istomina. “A Rhythm the Women Shared: Moving against Lady Scripts in A. Naomi Jackson's Émigré Love Story Ladies” (julia56789@gmail.com)
3. Teofil Husar, East Carolina University. “Love in Postcolonial Times: Examining C.S.Lewis’s The Four Loves in Toni Morrison’s Love” (husart15@students.ecu.edu)

Friday, March 4
Session VI: 4:00-5:30 pm

A.
Title: The Slave Narrative: Adaptation and Mediation
Moderator:

1. Maria Bellamy, College of Staten Island, CUNY. “Cross-Dressing and the Quest for Freedom in James McBride’s The Good Lord Bird (maria.bellamy@csi.cuny.edu)

2. Jill Parrott, Eastern Kentucky. “University Performing Authorial Subjectivity in the Slave Narrative Preface” (jill.parrott@eku.edu)

3. Robin Brooks, University of San Diego. "True Life Stories: (Un) Performing Destructive Family Legacies" (ROBINBROOKS@sandiego.edu)

B.
Title: Jewish American Identity Construction and Intercultural Connection
1. Brittany Miller, “‘Dot'sh a kin' a man I am!’: The Craft of Modern Jewish Identity in Cahan's Yekl and Aleichem's Tevye the Dairyman” (rbmiller@lapositascollege.edu)

2. Erin Mae Clark, "‘Fine Clothes to the Jew’: Langston Hughes and Intercultural Violence" (eclark@smunn.edu)


C.

Title: Postmodern Fantasy
Moderator:

1. Carina Hoffpauir, Southwestern University. “Under the Guise of Fiction: Postmodern Fantasies of Transatlantic Slavery in Mat Johnson's Pym” (caevans@southwestern.edu)

2. J. Ryan Marks, Penn State University. "‘You Are Lucky You Are Reading This… Instead of Propaganda’: Ranting and Speculative Identity Politics in Pym and Atomik Aztex" (jrm536@psu.edu)

D

Title: Asian American Literature
Moderator:

1. Holly Martin, Appalachian State University. “Nicholas/Nick: A Racial Shadow in The Surrendered by Chang-Rae Lee" (martinhe@appstate.edu)

2. Susan Thananopavarn, Duke University. “Deconstructing the ‘Postracial’ Future: Chang-rae Lee’s On Such a Full Sea” (susan.thananopavarn@duke.edu)

3. Wenxin Li. “A Chinese Brand of Trick or Treating: Geling Yan's The Banquet Bug" (wli79@yahoo.com)
Title: Irish Identity and Multicultural Literature

Moderator:

1. James Byrne, Wheaton College. "'New countries make new men': Space, Gender, Race, and the Performance of Irish American Identity in Edward Harrigan's The Mulligan Guard Ball" (byrne_james@wheatonma.edu)

2. Susan Jardine, Northern Illinois University. "'Over-Irish': The Inescapable Influence of Irishness in the Stories of Flannery O'Connor" (sjardine@niu.edu)

F.

Title: Doing the Charleston in Mira Jacob's The Sleepwalker's Guide to Dancing: De/Constructing Indian American Diasporic Subjectivity

Moderator: Lori J. Askeland, Wittenberg University (laskeland@wittenberg.edu)

1. Carrie Myers, City Seminary of New York. “Ghosts, Grief, and God: Religion, Spirituality, and ‘Classic Immigrant Dysfunction’ in Mira Jacob’s The Sleepwalker’s Guide to Dancing” (carrie@cityseminaryny.org)

2. Kyung-Sook Boo, Sogang University. “Doing the Charleston with ‘Indian’ Ghosts: Negotiations of Diasporic American Identities in Mira Jacob’s The Sleepwalker’s Guide to Dancing” (kyungsook@sogang.ac.kr)

3. Sheila Ghose, Sogang University. “Dancing with Death: Interrupted Diasporic Subjectivity in Mira Jacobs’s The Sleepwalker’s Guide to Dancing” (sheila.ghose@sh.se)

G. Chat with the MELUS Editor Gary Totten

6:00 PM An Evening with Josephine Humphreys
A Charleston native, Josephine Humphreys has authored numerous bestselling and award winning novels such as Rich in Love, The Fireman’s Fair, and Nowhere Else on Earth. She is the winner of the Pen/Hemingway Award, a Guggenheim Award, and the Lyndhurst Award.

Saturday, March 5
Session VII: 8:30-10:00 am

A. Title: Multiethnic Memoir
Moderator:

1. Vanessa Seals, Stanford University. "Narrating Birth and Identity in the Multiracial Family Memoir" (vlseals@stanford.edu)

2. Dina Eastwood. “Not Quite White: Impactful Memoirs by Bi-Racial Women” (dina@dinaeastwood.com)

B. Title: Racial and Spiritual Uplift in Black Literature
Moderator:


2. Christopher Black, Francis Marion University. “Phillis Wheatley, Jupiter Hammon, and the Biblical Typology of Enlightenment Black Abolitionism” (cblack@fmarion.edu)

C. Title: Music and Literature
Moderator:

1. Chelsea Adams, Weber State University. “Black and White Blues: The Othering of Blues Music through Romantic Racialism” (chelseaadams1@weber.edu)

2. Letitia Guran, North Carolina A&T State University. “Rewriting Charleston: Gershwin's ‘Porgy and Bess’ as a Broadway Musical in 2012” (liguran@ncat.edu)

D. Ta-Nehisi Coates
Title: Examining Ta-Nehisi Coates' Between the World and Me
Moderator: Tareva Johnson, University of Georgia (tareva@uga.edu)
1. Tareva Johnson, University of Georgia. “Parental Performance and Black Choicelessness in the Writings of Ta-Nehisi Coates” (tareva@uga.edu)

2. Kameel Mir. “Poetic Performance: The racial-political-lyrical in Ta-Nehisi Coates's *Between the World and Me*” (kameelmir@gmail.com)

3. John Esteban Rodriguez, University of Georgia. “The Body as a Scene of Address to the Reader in Ta-Nehisi Coates's *Between the World and Me*” (jr0916@uga.edu)

4. Lori Askeland, Wittenberg University. “A great emptiness, an enveloping sorrow, a creeping nothingness": Rejecting legacies of intimate violence in Ta-Nehisi Coates and Charles Blow” (laskeland@wittenberg.edu)

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**E. Black Trickster Figures and Antiheroes**

1. Everett Neasman, Jackson State University. “Coal-black is better than another hue": Creation and Agnatic Surrogacy in Shakespeare’s *Titus Andronicus*” (everett.g.neasman@jsums.edu)

2. Shirley Hanshaw, Mississippi State University. “Performative Power of the Trickster Hero: Weaving an Anansean Web of Survival in *Captain Blackman*” (SHanshaw@english.msstate.edu)

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**F.**

**Title: Science and Technology in Multi-Ethnic Literature**

**Moderator:**

1. Jenni Lieberman, University of North Florida. “Technology and the Performance of Blackness” (jleigh@gmail.com)

2. Lesley Larkin, Northern Michigan University. “I, Genome: Alina Troyano on Cloning and Contagion” (llarkin@nmu.edu)

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**Saturday, March 5**

**Session VIII: 10:15-11:45 am**
A. 
**Title: Performing Gender and Sexuality**

**Moderator:**

1. Justin Weltz. “Performing Politics, Sexuality, and Gender in *M. Butterfly*” (jw76778@gmail.com)

2. Claudio Pesenti, University of Kentucky. "Making no sound: David's and Giovanni's Speechlessness in Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room*" (cpe239@u.uky.edu)

B. 
**Titles: Exorcising Ghosts of Racism and Sexism in Ethnic Literature**

**Moderator:**

1. Lauren Kuryloski. “Corrupt Cleanliness: Performances of Embodied Madness in the Literature of Toni Morrison and Louise Erdrich" (kuryloski.l@husky.neu.edu)

2. Kaylee Jangula Mootz, North Dakota State University. “Another gimme-gimme asshole, Joe. That's all you are”: The Burden of Sexism in Louise Erdrich’s *The Round House*” (kaylee.jangula@nds.edu)

C. 
**Title: Racial and Social Liminal Spaces**

**Moderator:**

1. Joshua Murray, Kent State University. "'Gradually yet Surely': Racial and Social Mobility in Walter White’s *Flight*" (jmurra24@kent.edu)

2. Allison Parker, South Mountain Community College. "Mammy Versus Mulatta: Passing and Controlling Images in Fannie Hurst’s *Imitation of Life*" (allison.parker@southmountaincc.edu)

3. J. Beth Miller, East Tennessee State University. "'Dat's just de same as me 'cause mah tongue is in mah friend's mouf': The Possibilities of Friendship for the Southern Woman in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *The Great Gatsby*” (millerbk@mail.etsu.edu)
Title: **Intersections of Race, Religion, and Gender in Mainstream Superhero Comics**

**Moderator:** Chris Gonzalez, Texas A&M University-Commerce

1. Chris Gonzalez, Texas A&M University-Commerce. “Black Supermasculinities: Afroheroism in 21st Century DC Comics” (chrsgnzlz@gmail.com)

2. DMary Henderson Couzelis, Morgan State University (mary.couzelis@morgan.edu) and and Brett Butler, Morgan State University. “Marvels and Modern Muslims: Portrayals of Superheroes in Modern Comics” (brett.butler@morgan.edu)

3. Meghan Burns, University of Connecticut. “Stuck Rubber Baby's Harmonies: Resisting Binaries through Music in the Graphic Novel” (meghan.burns@uconn.edu)

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E.

**Title:** **Religion in African American Literature**

**Moderator:** J. Stephen Pearson and Rachel Luckenbill

1. Jami L Carlacio, Borough of Manhattan CC. “Activism in the Name of God: the Womanist Theology of Anna Julia Cooper” (jcarlacio@bmcc.cuny.edu)

2. Veronica Spettmann, Long Island University. “Goddess-Lore and the Push for Black Feminism in Naylor’s Mama Day” (VSpettmann@gmail.com)

3. Chris Kocela, Georgia State University. “From Snake to Vine to Shadow: Conjure and Buddhist Root Work in Charles Johnson’s Faith and the Good Thing” (ckocela@gsu.edu)

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F.

**Title:** **Redrawing the Past: Multi-Ethnic Graphic Narrative and History**

**Moderator:** Martha Cutter, University of Connecticut.

1. Martha J. Cutter, the University of Connecticut. “Re-Visioning Race: Transformations of the Historiography of Passing in Mat Johnson and Warren Pleece’s *Incognegro*” (martha.cutter@uconn.edu)

2. Angela Laflen, Marist College in Poughkeepsie. “Punking the 90s: Cristy C.}
Road’s Historical Salvage Project in *Spit and Passion*”
(aNgela.laflen@marist.edu)

3. Jorge Santos, College of Holy Cross. “To Look – Really Look: Photo-Graphic Narrative in Lila Quintero Weaver’s *Darkroom*” (jsantos@holycross.edu)

G. Title: Roundtable: Global Diasporas and Multiethnic Studies

**Moderator:** Irma Maini, New Jersey City University (irmamaini@gmail.com)

Cameron Bushnell, Clemson University (cbushne@clemson.edu)
Amritjit Singh, Ohio University (singha@ohio.edu)
Maya Socolovsky, UNC Charlotte (msocolov@uncc.edu)
Irma Maini, New Jersey City University (irmamaini@gmail.com)
Cristina Stanciu, Virginia Commonwealth University (cstanciu@vcu.edu)
Uppinder Mehan, Fort Valley State University (mehanu@fvsu.edu)

12:00-1:30 lunch on your own

Saturday, March 5
Session IX: 1:45-3:15 pm

Plenary Roundtable featuring:

Michele Elam, Stanford University (melam@stanford.edu)
Amritjit Singh, Ohio University (singha@ohio.edu)
Helena Maria Viramontes, Cornell University (hmv2@cornell.edu)
Simon Lewis, College of Charleston (lewiss@cofc.edu)

Saturday, March 5
Session X: 3:30-5:00 pm

A.
Title: The Performance of Blackness and Identity Politics
Moderator:
1. Aisha Damali Lockridge, Saint Joseph’s University. “Mary Poppins, the Muse and the New Black: Interpretative Possibilities of the Magical Negress” (aisha.lockridge@sju.edu)

2. James Harris, Ohio State University. “Becoming ‘Post-racial,’ or How to Look Black in the Age of Obama: Pariah, Dope and an Impossible Task” (harris.1487@buckeyemail.osu.edu)

3. Jennifer Griffiths, Ripon College. “On the Verge of Flying Back: The Problematic of the Young, Gifted, and Black Johnnas” (jgriff02@nyit.edu)

B.
Title: Middle Eastern Diasporas
Moderator:

1. Angela Naimou, Clemson University. “Khalil Gibran’s The Prophet and the Refugees of Endless Way” (anaimou@clemson.edu)

2. Andrea Modarres, University of Washington. “Performing Diaspora in A Map of Home” (modara@uw.edu)

3. Laila Amine, University of North Texas. “Re-Orienting the Ethnic Bildungsroman” (laila.amine@gmail.com)

C.
Title: Meditations on Race and Post-Colonialism
Moderator:

1. Savannah Hall, Indiana University. “Going Suntan: Fashion-Forward Performances of Race in 1920s American Literary and Visual Culture of the Suntan Vogue” (savhall@mail.iu.edu)

2. Stephanie Callan, Spring Hill College. “Performing Race, Performing Science in Black No More” (scallan@shc.edu)

3. Farah Khan, University of Florida. “Reciprocity and Anti-Conquest in Blue Hawaii and The Heathen” (farahk94@ufl.edu)
D. Title: Using Humor to Construct Identity
Moderator:

1. Fred L. Gardaphe, The City University of New York. “Performing Ethnicity in Italian American Humor” (fred.gardaphe@qc.cuny.edu)

2. Wilson Chen, Benedictine University. "'Rotten Bananas,' Hip Hop Heads, and Performing the (Multicultural) American Individual: Eddie Huang's Fresh Off the Boat and Its Tropes of Literacy" (wchen@ben.edu)

E. Title: Reconciling The Ties That Bind: Aesthetic Innovations and Performing Race in Poetry”
Moderator:

1. Gina Abelkop, University of Georgia. (gabelkop@uga.edu)

2. Ginger Ko, University of Georgia. “The Lyric Ceiling” (gko@uga.edu)

3. Grace Shuyi Liew, Louisiana State University. (grace.syliew@gmail.com)

F. Title: What kind of poem / Would you make out of that?: Literature and Violence
Moderator:

1. Christina Accomando, Humboldt State University. “Troubling the Beat Inevitable: Point of View and Representations of Lynching” (christina.accomando@humboldt.edu)

2. Anne Shea. “Claudia Rankine's Citizen: Microagressions and Everyday Violence” (afbshea@gmail.com)

3. Mazen Naous, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. “The Threads of the Veil: A Performance of Victimhood in ‘The Spiced Chicken Queen of Mickaweaquah, Iowa’" (mnaous@umass.edu)

G. Title: The Business of Work and Responsibility in Multi-Ethnic Literature
Moderator:

1. Katrina Paulette Newsom, Wayne State University. “Work and Responsibility: Reading Race and Gender Performance in Junot Díaz’s *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*” (az4174@wayne.edu)

2. David Witzling, Manhattan College. “Public Agency: The State, Poverty, and the Black Subject in Sapphire’s *Push* and *The Kid*” (david.witzling@manhattan.edu)

3. Mary Unger, Ripon College. “Bronzeville’s Bookstores and the Making of the Black Chicago Renaissance” (ungerm@ripon.edu)

6:00 Helena Maria Viramontes Reading
Helena Maria Viramontes is a Professor at Cornell University and is the acclaimed author of *The Moths and Other Stories* and two novels *Under the Feet of Jesus* and *Their Dogs Came With Them*. She is co-editor with Maria Herrera Sobek, of two collections: *Chicana (W) rites: On Word and Film* and *Chicana Creativity and Criticism*. She is a recipient of the John Dos Passos Award for Literature, and a United States Artist Fellowship.

Sunday, March 6
Session XI: 8:30-10:00 am

A. Title: Reimagining Modalities of Citizenship through the Dialectics of Caribbean/US Popular Culture
Moderator:

1. Marta Gierczyk, University of Miami. “Resistant Consumption: Thinking Transgressive Mobilities through Visual Culture in Angie Cruz’s *Let it Rain Coffee*” (mdg60@miami.edu)

2. Samina Gul Ali. “Caribbean Intercultural Production and Anti-Consumption Narratives of Performance: Drupatee Ramgoonai’s Construction of Chutney Soca Identity and Negotiations of the (sga15@miami.edu)
B.

Title: Roundtable: Undergraduate Research in Multicultural Courses
Moderator: Cristina Stanciu, Virginia Commonwealth University (cstanciu@vcu.edu)

Keely Byars-Nichols, University of Mount Olive. (kbyars-nichols@umo.edu)

Michele Fazio, University of North Carolina Pembroke. (michele.fazio@uncp.edu)

Tracy Floreani, Oklahoma City University. (tafloreani@okcu.edu)

Anastasia Lin, University of North Georgia. (anastasialin168@gmail.com)

J. Stephen Pearson, University of North Georgia. (stpears11@gmail.com)

Sonia Alvarez-Wilson, Illinois College. (sonia.alvarezwilson@mail.ic.edu)

Sunday, March 6
Session XII: 10:15-11:45 am

A.

Title: Dancing with J.T.: A roundtable to honor the life, works, spirit, and heart of
Joseph T. Skerret
Moderator: Dr. Batya Weinbaum (batyawein@aol.com)

****In lieu of the traditional membership meeting, MELUS officers will be available
for short meet and greet sessions to answer questions.