

Saturday, November 8

Registration and Coffee in Union Lounge: 9-9:30 a.m.

Welcome Address in Union Lounge: 9:30-9:45 a.m.

Session I: 10:00-11:15 a.m.

Technology and the Environment

Cardinal/Oak Room

Moderator: Dr. Neil Baird

Leslie Hayes

Missouri State University

"Android Bodies: Female Identity in the Fiction of Philip K. Dick"

Anne Schnarr

Western Illinois University

"DeLillo and The Body of the Crowd"

Emily Brackman

Western Illinois University

"Deep Ecology and the Human Body"

Masculinity

Lincoln Room

Moderator: Dr. Lisa Barr

Jason Robert Zeh

Bowling Green State University

"Fascist Masculinity and Modernism in the Art of the Spanish Anarchists"

Hyun-Jin Lim

University of Missouri – St. Louis

"Male Artists and the Empty Female Body: Reading Masculine Anxiety in Representations of Ophelia in Nineteenth-Century Britain"

Danelle Jordan

Western Illinois University

*"The Dichotomy Paradox: Innocent Girl and Fallen Woman in *The Quaker City*"*

Session II: 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Femininity and Selfhood

Cardinal/Oak Room

Moderator: Dr. Marjorie Allison

Carissa Miller

Western Illinois University

"The Problematic Identity Constructions of Adam and Eve"

Holly Luetkenhaus

Western Illinois University

"Ungendered Feminism in Orlando"

Kindra Becker

University of South Carolina

TBA

Religion and the Body

Lincoln Room

Moderator: Dr. Penny Kelsey

Alecia Dantico

University of Illinois at Chicago

"To Veil or Not to Veil: The Female Body and Political Resistance in Contemporary Literature"

A.E. Watkins

Purdue

"Typology of the Body in George Herbert's "Affliction" Poems"

Kristen Carlson

Trinity College

"Up in Smoke: The Role of Smoking in Victorian Literature"

Lunch on your own: 12:45-2:00 p.m.

Session III: 2:00-3:15 p.m.

Disability

Cardinal/Oak Room

Moderator: Dr. Joan Livingston-Weber

Joseph Baumann

Truman State University

"Wheels on Ground: A Meditation on Disability"

Erica Daigle

University of Iowa

*"Quondam et Futurus: Living Corpses in Malory's *Le Morte Darthur*"*

Female Image

Lincoln Room

Moderator: Dr. David Banash

Ashley Krawiec

University of South Carolina

"The Awakening of the True Self: Life after "Happily Ever After"

Elizabeth Johnson

Governors State University

"Black Supermodels: Duplicate of the White Counterpart?"

Russett Lederman

School of Visual Arts – New York

"Self-Commodification: Controlling the Body"

Session IV: 3:30-4:45 p.m.

Love and Fashion

Cardinal/Oak Room

Moderator: Dr. Alice Robertson

Tamara Sack

Truman State University

"Victorian Goddess: Classicism in Women's Fashions in Nineteenth-Century Western Culture"

Elisabeth Miller

Winona State University

"Leopold Bloom and Love as Real Life in James Joyce's *Ulysses*"

Bernetta Hayes

University of Iowa

"The Politics of Dress Fashion and Skin Color in *Quicksand* and "The Sleeper Wakes"

Colonialism and the Black Body

Lincoln Room

Moderator: Dr. Shazia Rahman

Lerzan Gültekin

Atilim University

"Ambivalence, Authority and The Representations of The Black/Dark Body in Somerset Maugham's "The Force of The Circumstance" and Doris Lessing's *The Grass Is Singing*"

J. Coplen Rose

Lakehead University

"Privileging a Western Aesthetic: Al Purdy's Response to Athol Fugard's National Focus in *Sizwe Bansi is Dead*"

Stephanie McQueen

Trinity College

"Africans as Sub-Humans: Meaning of the Body in *Heart of Darkness*"

Reception at Winesellers, 121 Randolph: 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the WIU English and Journalism Faculty

Sunday, November 9

Registration and Coffee in Union Lounge: 9:00-9:20 a.m.

Session I: 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Mental and Spiritual Health

Lincoln Room

Moderator: Dr. Christopher Morrow

Debrenee Adkisson

Kansas State University

"A Rather Bitter Medicine: The Rest Cure as a Form of Women's Oppression"

Tracey Purlee

Western Illinois University

"Melancholia in Elizabethan Times Compared with Modern-Day Depression: Help From Our Hero Hamlet"

Mary Lo Ying Wa

University of Hong Kong

"The Representation of the Female Body in an American Female Bildungsroman: Narrative Doubleness and Schizophrenic Female Selfhood in The Bell Jar"

Session II: 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Medicated Bodies

Lincoln Room

Moderator: Dr. Mark Mossman

Craig Finlay

Western Illinois University

"Byron and Orientalism"

Naomi Vaughan

University of Chicago

"How to Unbecome in an Epidemic: Black Hole, AIDS and the Abject Body"

Luncheon Dinner in The Lamoine Room: 12:30-1:45 p.m.

Keynote Event: 2:00 p.m.

Lincoln Room

Dr. Martha Stoddard Holmes

California State University – San Marcos

“Cancer Comix: Narrating Cancer Through Sequential Art”

One of the most interesting narrative forms to engage cancer stories in the last several years is the comic book. Harvey Pekar and Joyce Brabner’s *Our Cancer Year* (1994) was followed in 2006 by three graphic cancer narratives: Brian Fies’s *Mom’s Cancer*, Marisa Acocella Marchetto’s *Cancer Vixen*, and Miriam Engelberg’s *Cancer Made Me a Shallower Person*. Other cartoon artists, such as Alison Bechdel in *Dykes to Watch Out For*, have included cancer subplots in their strips. Graphic narratives of cancer are distinct not simply for integrating the visual and verbal, but also for working in distinctive ways with time *as* space and using avatars that render human embodiment through iconic, morphing “masks” in combination with realistic objects. These features, I argue, not only make graphic narrative an apt medium for cancer stories, but also allow it to be more politically and socially provocative than purely verbal cancer stories. The iconic, unrealistic comic avatar is a great fit with the bodily transformations that emerge from cancer and its treatment; more generally, the materiality of an artform that records the hand that produced it is an ideal medium in which to embody an illness story. Further, this “sequential” art’s frequent refusals of sequentiality leave us with traces of lost order that productively render the disrupted temporality of illness. Finally, the received notion of comic books as kid stuff or funny papers leaves readers ripe for the social critique that many cancer comics generate, making them a powerful activist tool, especially for young people who are comics-literate.

This conference as well as Dr. Stoddard Holmes’ presentation would not have been made possible without the support of The Provost’s Office, The Visiting Lecturer’s Committee, The University Theme Committee, the WIU English and Journalism Department, and the WIU English Graduate Organization.