



Western Arts & Humanities

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the Department of English & Writing Studies

October 2015

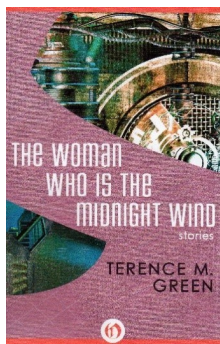
Publications

Nandi Bhatia, “Revisiting the Theatre of the *Komagata Maru* Incident.” *Studies in Canadian Literature*. 40.1 (2015): 27-44

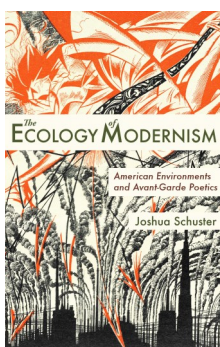


Julia Emberley's article “Autodestruction in Lebanon: The Testimonial Uncanny and the Birth of Knowledge in Walid Raad’s *The Atlas Group*” was published in the *Topia: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies*. No. 33. 2015: 53-74. This paper is concerned with the methodological question of what it means to produce “cultural politics from below,” in opposition to “cultural politics from above.” This approach emerges from an examination of memory and memorialization in the context of traumatic events, in particular, the Lebanese civil wars, which took place from 1975–91.

Julia Emberley also published “In/Hospitable ‘Aboriginalities’ in Contemporary Indigenous Women’s Writing”. *The Oxford Handbook of Canadian Literature*. Forthcoming. Ed. Cynthia Sugars. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.



Terence Green's short story collection *The Woman Who is the Midnight Wind* has just been published as an eBook in Canada and the United States by digital and multimedia content company Open Road Integrated Media, New York. The publication “pushes the boundaries of a genre already renowned for its farsighted invention and establishes Green’s as a science fiction humanist on par with the immortal Ray Bradbury”.



Joshua Schuster recently published his book *The Ecology of Modernism: American Environments and Avant-Garde Poetics* (University of Alabama Press, October 15 2015). Joshua examines the relationships of key modernist writers, poets, and musicians to nature, industrial development and pollution. He posits that the curious failure of modernist poets to develop an environmental ethic was a deliberate choice and not an inadvertent omission.

Anne Schuurman's article “Pity and Poetics in Chaucer’s *Legend of Good Women*” will be published in the October 2015 issue of PMLA (vol. 130, number 3).

Announcements

On Thursday October 29, **Dr. Steven Bruhm** participated in “Halloween SPARK,” a conference produced by the Thames Valley District School Board as an “enrichment opportunity for students who are identified as being gifted, bright and/or talented.” Dr. Bruhm presented “The Gothic Child” to two different groups of students. A promotional video can be seen here: [Halloween SPARK](#). Also note that our own **Dr. Andrew Wenaus** will present “Cultures of Blood in Literature” at the same conference.



October 2015

Announcements

The **Victorian Reading Group** meets every four to six weeks to discuss a pre-selected Victorian text over food and drinks in a congenial atmosphere. In mid– November they will be exploring Augustus Pugin’s *Contrasts*. If you are interested in being added to their Victorian Reading Group email list, please contact Christine Penhale: cpenhale@uwo.ca

The War on Terror: Reverberations and Recollections

A Symposium — Chandrima Chakraborty (McMaster) and Shazia Sadaf (PhD candidate, Western)

Monday November 9, 2015 at 3:30pm in the AHB 2R21

Chandrima Chakraborty: “Remembering ‘a Canadian Tragedy’ in an Age of Terror: Air India Flight 182”

329 people lost their lives in a bomb explosion on 23 June 1985, on board Air India Flight 182. The passengers were mostly Canadian citizens of Indian heritage; but, in the aftermath of the bombings, the Canadian government dismissed the bombing as a foreign tragedy. This changed in the aftermath of the attacks on the Twin Towers in New York City on 11 September 2001. Numerous belated memorialization attempts by the Canadian state reframed the bombing of AI Flight 182 as “a Canadian tragedy.” Such nationalist and strategic reclaiming of the Air India bombings in official discourse is troubled by an engagement with how the event and its aftermath are memorialized in a range of creative texts-fiction, poetry, dance, and film, among others. Creative texts promote a deeper understanding of the significance of the Air India tragedy within local, national and transnational contexts by demonstrating its continuing impact on our shared present and future.

Shazia Sadaf: “Marketable Memory: The Framing of Pak-Afghan Women in the War on Terror”

This paper traces media representations and iconic photographs of women in Afghanistan and Pakistan in the post 9/11 period of conflict and how their painful memories are framed to become a part of a larger cultural commodity project by magazines such as the National Geographic and TIME to justify U.S. military action against Islamic fundamentalism.

The rise in popularity of travel journalism, and dark tourism by proxy to sites of terror that such pictures offer, have turned these images into marketable products to sell as cultural souvenirs in the West. From posters of the famous “Afghan Girl” on the cover of National Geographic, to the T-shirts and tote-bags with pictures of Malala Yousafzai holding her memoir, the endless commercial possibilities are a lucrative byproduct of the war on terror.

The **Performance Studies Research Group** at Western is please to announce a program of events in conjunction with the Department of English and Writing Studies production of Thomas Middleton’s *Women Beware Women*.

Wednesday, November 11th: Post–show Q&A with cast and crew

Thursday, November 12th, 6:45pm: “*Women Beware Women*– Beware THIS! Pre– Show Talk” with Dr. Margaret Jane Kidnie (Western University)

Friday, November 13th: Post-show Q&A with cast and crew

All events will take place at the McManus Theatre, 471 Richmond Street, London. Produced in association with Western’s Theatre Studies Program. For more information, please contact Dr. Kim Solga: ksolga@uwo.ca or Meghan O’ Hara: mohara4@uwo.ca



www.accute.ca
15 October 2015

Dear Colleague,

I write as President of the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE) to let you know about some of our activities and to ask if you would consider joining, or rejoining, ACCUTE.

As you know, ACCUTE is the central national organization for English scholars in Canada. For over half a century, ACCUTE has worked on behalf of our profession. On the scholarly side, we organize an annual conference that brings together hundreds of researchers across the entire range of English studies. The inherently interdisciplinary, heterogeneous work we do at the ACCUTE conference makes it one of the stand-out scholarly meetings in this country. What's more, ACCUTE provides funding for presenters!

This year is no different. Our 2016 conference will feature plenary talks by Christine Bold (University of Guelph; author of the multiple-award winning *The Frontier Club: Popular Westerns and Cultural Power, 1880-1924* [Oxford UP, 2013]) and Stephanie LeMenager (Barbara and Carlisle Moore Professor of English and Environmental Studies at the University of Oregon; author of *Living Oil: Petroleum Culture in the American Century* [Oxford UP, 2014]). We are also partnering with the Canadian Historical Association and the Canadian Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences to present a roundtable on Indigenous history and literature, as part of a wider effort to address the humanities' responses to the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. We will continue a series of professional discussions on issues of pedagogy, precarity, university governance, and other topics of vital importance to our discipline and profession. This year promises to set many of the discussions that will continue in our home departments.

ACCUTE continues its intellectual pursuits outside the conference, publishing the scholarly journal *ESC: English Studies in Canada*, to which all members receive a subscription. *ESC* is Canada's leading English studies journal, and a global force in multidisciplinary humanities scholarship: articles are downloaded over 80,000 times per year in over 80 countries. We also award the annual F.E.L. Priestley Prize for the best essay in each volume of the journal.

Beyond this scholarly work, ACCUTE continues to serve as a central voice in advocating for the importance of literary and cultural study and, indeed, of the humanities in general. In a letter much like this one, former ACCUTE president Linda Hutcheon wrote that we all "have much to gain in personal and professional terms from joining this nationally recognized and respected association," pointing out then—as now—that ACCUTE is a member of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS), which lobbies SSHRC and Ottawa on behalf of ACCUTE and close to 80 other academic associations, and with whom we regularly consult and collaborate. As Dr. Hutcheon noted, "the Federation is crucial to our continuing role in helping to sustain funding for the humanities and in making sure that the sort of research we do is not forgotten in government research initiatives." That has never been as true as it is in this election year.

ACCUTE also continuously strives to fulfill our mandate to improve the general working conditions for our members. In recent years, we have drafted a “Best Practices” checklist regarding the responsibilities departments hold to contract academic faculty members, a document that was circulated to departments across the country. Board members have also spoken to SSHRC leaders, government officials, and in public forums on the necessity of encouraging and supporting humanities research.

I became a member of ACCUTE as a graduate student and remained a member during my time as a contract employee, when ACCUTE offered me both funding to attend the conference and an academic community. I then joined the executive, working on the Committee for Professional Concerns, and have continued working with ACCUTE until now. Just as Dr. Hutcheon said in her letter, my time with ACCUTE has taught me of its true “centrality to the discipline of English as it is taught, learned, and researched in Canada.”

As we approach the deadline for proposals to our annual conference (November 1st!), I’d like to take this opportunity to encourage you to become a member, or to renew if it has been a while since you joined. ACCUTE can only continue its work on behalf of English studies and the humanities in Canada if we have the support of scholars across the country. You can join the association, learn more about our activities, and propose a paper for the next conference at our website: www.accute.ca.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you have any questions, please just let me know.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jason Haslam
President, ACCUTE
Jason.Haslam@dal.ca

words

THE LITERARY AND CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

6 - 8 November | London, Ontario

Museum London, the London Public Library, Western University
Fanshawe College and the Covent Garden Market

How Poems Know What it's Like to Die

10:00- 11:30 am
November 10,
2015

A seminar on literary
representations of the
experience of death.

American
Studies

FIMS

The Theory
Centre

The Department
of English

&

The Americanist
Research Group

PRESENT

Two Talks With Michael W. Clune

Author of *Gameline* and
White Out

Both talks given in AHB Room 2R07

“Clune’s memoirs will take over your
brain... they will make you *more* human, by
doubling down on your capacity for empa-
thy, as the best literature tends to do.”

- Ian Bogost, *Los Angeles Review of
Books*

A Talk on *Gameline*

3:30-5:00PM
November 9,
2015

Michael W. Clune in
conversation with
Jonathan Boulter



november 16-17

10am-4pm

AHB 2G28N

book & bake sale

all books \$5 or less

baked goods by donation

funds support GES events

President's Lecture Series
Save the Date

Amit Chakma, President &
Vice-Chancellor invites you to the
latest President's Lecture Series
featuring:

David Bentley
Killam Prize Winner

Wednesday, November 25, 2015
2:00 p.m.
Paul Davenport Theatre
Talbot College

A reception will follow

Western 

