

# 2018 CLASSICAL & MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES SYMPOSIUM

## THE METAPHOR OF THE MONSTER



**The Mill Convention Center**

**September 21 - 22**



**MISSISSIPPI STATE  
UNIVERSITY™**

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL & MODERN  
LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

## Friday, September 21 Morning Sessions

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**8:00AM** Breakfast served. Check-in desk opened

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### 8:30AM - 9:30AM

#### **RIVERS CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PANEL TITLE: DIASPORIC AND (POST-)COLONIAL MANIFESTATIONS OF THE MONSTER**

**Panel Chair: Anna Debicka-Dyer**, Mississippi State University

**Benjamin Sparks**, The University of Memphis.  
"Minotaurs, Myths, and L'indicible in *Qui se souvient de la mer*"

**Adriana Vázquez**, University of California, Los Angeles. "Giants in a Landscape: Autochthony, Gigantomachy, and a Mythology of National Identity in the Brazilian Colonial Period"

**Subbah Mir**, Louisiana State University.  
"Satire as Source of Infection and Purgation in the Drama of African Diaspora"

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#### **DELTA CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PANEL TITLE: REPRESENTATIONS OF FEMININE MONSTROSITY (I)**

**Panel Chair: Sol Peláez**, Mississippi State University

**Bonnie Whitener**, The University of Alabama.  
"McFate and the Maiden: America and Monstrous Little Girls in *Lolita*"

**Shannon Dullard**, The University of Alabama.  
"The Sympathetic Monster of Florence Marryat's *Blood of the Vampire*"

**Patricia Thomásio Quinelato and Betsi Yamileth Gómez Ballesteros**, The University of Mississippi.  
"Societies View of the Female Monster in *The Kiss of the Spider Woman* by Manuel Puig"

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### 9:00AM - 10:00AM

#### **FOOTHILLS CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PANEL TITLE: SUBVERSIVE MONSTERS/ MONSTROUS SUBVERSIVES**

**Panel Chair: Diane Marting**, The University of Mississippi

**Dylan Goldblatt**, The University of Mississippi.  
"Kafka and Benn and the Monsters Within"

**Dan O'Sullivan**, The University of Mississippi.  
"Thibaut de Champagne and the Bestiary Tradition"

**Diane Marting**, The University of Mississippi.  
"The Zombie Metaphor in an Argentine Short Story: Luisa Valenzuela"

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### 10:00AM - 11:00AM

#### **RIVERS CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PANEL TITLE: MONSTROSITY IN THE AGE OF INFORMATION**

**Panel Chair: Peter Corrigan**, Mississippi State University

**Michael Frazer**, Auburn University.  
"Jean-Claude van Itallie's Motel and the Monstrous Body of Consumerism"

**Jason Pontillo**, The University of Alabama.  
"Putting Male Monstrosity and Fake News Trolls on Trial in the Revolutionary Period: Charles Brockden Brown's *Wieland* and the Voice of Traumatized Women"

**David Scott Diffrient**, Colorado State University.  
"Three-Headed Monsters' and 'Ugly Americans':  
Demonizing the Working-Class in Multi-Camera  
Sitcoms and TV Animation"

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### ***DELTA CONFERENCE ROOM***

**PANEL TITLE: REPRESENTATIONS OF FEMININE  
MONSTROSITY (II)**

**Panel Chair: Sol Peláez**, Mississippi State University

**Elisa Carandina**, Institut National des Langues et  
Civilisations Orientales (France).

"Maybe something I never wanted will be born':  
Etgar Keret's Monstrous Dream of Motherhood"

**Nicholas Helms**, The University of Alabama.  
"Inferring the Mind: Parasites and the 'Monstrous  
Thought' in Early Modern Drama"

**Sol Peláez**, Mississippi State University.  
"Sovereign Imagination and the Monstrous  
Fantasy of Literature. Reading Pizarnik and Rivera  
Garza"

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**10:30AM - 12:30PM**

### ***FOOTHILLS CONFERENCE ROOM***

**PANEL TITLE: PEDAGOGICAL APPROACHES TO  
TEACHING MONSTROSITY**

**Panel Chair: Kelly Moser**, Mississippi State  
University

**Sarah Coluccio**, St. John's University.  
"Of Monsters and Mirrors-What Makes a Monster?'  
Examining The Literary Divide Between Man and  
Monster"

**Silvia Arroyo**, Mississippi State University.  
"Teaching Monstrosity in Spanish Early Modern  
Literature"

**Devon Pizzino**, Borough Manhattan Community  
College/ St. Francis College.  
"'We Live in a Time of Monsters': Teaching Writing  
and Literature Courses with a Focus on the Theme of  
Monsters and Monstrosity to Challenge and Engage  
Students"

**Neil Barrett**, The Webb School  
"Milton's Monster"

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**11:30AM - 12:30PM**

### ***RIVERS CONFERENCE ROOM***

**PANEL TITLE: IMAGES OF THE MONSTROUS (I)**

**Panel Chair: Karina Zelaya**, Mississippi State  
University

**Matt Peisen**, Indiana University.  
"Images of Splendor: Marvelous, Monstrous Portraits  
in *El mayor monstruo del mundo*"

**Christian Gallichio**, The University of Georgia.  
"Shelley's Nightmare: Filmic Representation of  
Byron's *Villa Diodati Party*"

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### ***DELTA CONFERENCE ROOM***

**PANEL TITLE: HYBRIDITY AND TERATOLOGY**

**Panel Chair: Salvador Bartera**, Mississippi State  
University

**Kelly Shannon-Henderson**, The University of  
Alabama.  
"Monsters and Medicine: Galen and Phlegon of  
Tralles on Centaurs"

**James Seth**, Auburn University.  
"Strange Fish (and Toads): Caliban and the Early  
Modern Amphibian"

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**1:00PM - 3:00PM - Lunch Break**

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## Friday, September 21 Afternoon Sessions

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**3:00PM - 4:30PM**

### **RIVERS CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PANEL TITLE: IMAGES OF THE MONSTROUS (II)**

**Panel Chair: Robert Harland**, Mississippi State University

**Susanna Coleman**, Southern New Hampshire University.

"'You'd Better Hurry, My Mother's Coming': Monsters as the Fear of Parenthood in David Lynch's *Eraserhead* and *Twin Peaks*"

**Robert Harland**, Mississippi State University.

"It Eats Your Brains! The Horrifying Camp Fascination of the Truly Terrible Film *The Brainiac / El Barón del Terror* (1961) by Chano Urueta"

**Xosé Pereira Boán**, Rhodes College.

"Franco-Spain's Creations: The Monster-Child in Peninsular Film"

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### **DELTA CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PANEL TITLE: THE ECOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE METAPHOR OF THE MONSTER**

**Panel Chair: Keith Moser**, Mississippi State University

**Sara Wellman**, The University of Mississippi.

"Monstrous Women and Sustainability in Rousseau's Fictional Families"

**Keith Moser**, Mississippi State University.

"J.M.G. Le Clézio's Defense of the Human and Other-Than-Human Victims of the Derridean "Monstrosity of the Unrecognizable" in the Mauritian Saga *Alma*"

**M.K. Foster**, The University of Alabama.

"Tearing limb from limbe: Metonymy, Synecdoche, and Homonymic Language as *monstrum* in Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*"

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**3:00PM - 4:00PM**

### **FOOTHILLS CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PANEL TITLE: THE LIMINAL SPACE OF MONSTROSITY**

**Panel Chair: Sally Gray**, Mississippi State University

**Albert Watanabe**, Louisiana State University.

"The Edges of the World in Hellenistic Greece and Epic India"

**Mindy Adams**, Texas State University, San Marcos.

"Monster of Vacancy, Ghost of Culture, Instrument of Clarity: Cultural and Textual Analysis of the Function of the Sonoran Desert as Monster in Luis Alberto Urrea's *The Devil's Highway*"

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**5:00PM - 6:30PM**

### **KEYNOTE EVENT - DELTA CONFERENCE ROOM**



**Dr. Jonathan Krell**, University of Georgia.

"Mélusine from the 14th Century to the Age of *homo detritus*"

Jonathan Krell teaches Business French and 20th- and 21st century French literature at the University of Georgia. His current research interests are in the contemporary French novel and its relationship to ecology. He is the author of *The Ogre's Progress: Images of the*

*Ogre in Modern and Contemporary French Fiction* (U of Delaware P, 2009) and *Tournier élémentaire* (Purdue UP, 1994), and translator of Michel Tournier's *Le Miroir des idées* (The Mirror of Ideas) and *Eléazar, ou La Source et le buisson* (Eleazar: Exodus to the West) (University of Nebraska Press, 1998 and 2002). He is currently preparing a book entitled *Ecocritics and Ecoskeptics: A Humanist Reading of Recent French Ecofiction*, to be published by Liverpool UP.

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**6:30PM** Hors D'Oeuvres and Cash Bar

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## Saturday, September 22 Morning Sessions

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**8:00AM** Breakfast served. Check-in desk opened

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**8:30AM - 9:30AM**

### **RIVERS CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PANEL TITLE: MONSTROUS ENCOUNTERS WITH THE OTHER**

**Panel Chair: Silvia Arroyo**, Mississippi State University

**Laurent Dittmann**, Georgia State University.  
"Dragons, Chasseurs, Smugglers, and Beasts: The Militarization of Hunting in 18th Century France"

**Bobby Nixon**, Columbus State University (Georgia).  
"Encounters with the Other in Iberian Jewish, Islamic, and Christian Travel Literature of the Middle Ages"

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**9:00AM - 10:00AM**

### **DELTA CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PANEL TITLE: PROBING THE MONSTROSITY OF LITERARY FORMS (I)**

**Panel Chair: Brian Davisson**, Mississippi State University

**Sophie Vainer**, Georgia State University.  
"Monsters Portrayed through Literature"

**José Estrada**, The University of Chicago.  
"Prodigy and Imagination: Examples of Monstrosities in Ruiz de Alarcón's *El desdichado en fingir*"

**Brian Davisson**, Mississippi State University.  
"The Other 'Loose, Baggy Monsters': Antonio José de Irisarri's Early Attempts at the Central American Novel"

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### **FOOTHILLS CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PANEL TITLE: THE SYMBOLISM OF WITCHES AND VAMPIRES IN THE COLLECTIVE HUMAN IMAGINATION**

**Panel Chair: Peter Corrigan**, Mississippi State University

**Clarisse Scarlett**, Middle Tennessee State University.  
"Monstrous Witches and the Terror They Inspire"

**Alyssa Holan**, University of Wisconsin – Platteville.  
"Vamping it up: Identity Performance, Homoerotics and Intoxicated Bloodlust in the Poetry of Eduardo Haro Ibars"

**Amy Wilson**, West Virginia University and Fairmont State University.  
"Lonely Monsters: How Vampires Speak to a Disconnected Human World"

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**10:00AM - 11:00AM**

### **RIVERS CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PANEL TITLE: THE METAPHORICAL VALUE OF MONSTERS IN CULTURE AND FOLKLORE (I)**

**Panel Chair: Karim Simpure**, Mississippi State University

**Robert Wolverton**, Mississippi State University.  
"The 'Father' and 'Mother' of Greek Monsters"

**Karim Simporte**, Mississippi State University.  
"The Multifaceted Image of the 'Monster' in the Christian Spiritual Tradition: Symbols and Representations"

**Scott Truesdale**, Mississippi State University.  
"How a Monster Became a Hero: An Understanding of Camusian Morality Through the Absurdist Hero, Don Juan"

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## 10:30 AM - 11:30AM

### **DELTA CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PANEL TITLE: PROBING THE MONSTROSITY OF LITERARY FORMS (II)**

**Panel Chair: Silvia Arroyo**, Mississippi State University

**Antón García-Fernández**, The University of Tennessee at Martin.  
"Social Monstrosities: The Science Fiction Novels of Emilio Carrere"

**Francesca Wadlington**, Mississippi State University.  
"When Augusto Met Miguel: Unamuno's Overturn of Ordinary Authorship in *Niebla*"

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## 10:30AM - 12:30PM

### **FOOTHILLS CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PANEL TITLE: PATHOGENS, PARASITES, PSYCHOPATHS: THE MEDICALIZATION OF MONSTERS**

**Panel Chair: Keith Moser**, Mississippi State University

**Michelle Piersol**, Texas State University.  
"A Bold Demon Who Waited in Darkness: Influences of the Monster Beowulf in Cormac McCarthy's *Child of God*"

**Frederick Whiting**, The University of Alabama.  
"Nativity, Invisibility, Pathology: Postwar African American Subjectivity and the Bildungsroman"

**Stephanie Jirard**, Shippensburg University.  
"The Monster in White: The Banality of Language Authorizing Human Experimentation in the United States"

**Wladimir Márquez**, Regis University.  
"Myrmidons, Cow-Eaters and Bandits in El Escambray: Politics of Testimonial Literature in Cuba"

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## 11:30AM - 12:30PM

### **RIVERS CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PANEL TITLE: THE METAPHORICAL VALUE OF MONSTERS IN CULTURE AND FOLKLORE (II)**

**Panel Chair: Sally Gray**, Mississippi State University

**Michael Rice**, Middle Tennessee State University.  
"Friedrich Torberg's 'Golems Wiederkehr': A Tale of Persecution and Survival"

**Sonja Hedgepeth**, Middle Tennessee State University.  
"The Horrified Self: The Specter of Antisemitism in Gustav Meyrink's *The Golem*"

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## **SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Dr. Silvia Arroyo  
Dr. Salvador Bartera  
Ms. Chassidy Boyd  
Dr. Peter Corrigan  
Dr. Robert Harland  
Ms. Julia Kraker  
Dr. Keith Moser  
Ms. Arleana Moya  
Dr. Rosa Vozzo

