

aglp 2018 Annual

Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs

Conference

Borders



&

Tempe, Arizona

October 11 - 13

Migrations

Hosted by the Masters of Liberal Studies Program at



"EVERY AMERICAN WHO EVER LIVED, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE GROUP, WAS EITHER AN IMMIGRANT HIMSELF OR A DESCENDANT OF IMMIGRANTS." - JF KENNEDY

Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs

2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 11 - 13
Tempe, Arizona

Borders & Migrations

Borders are set up to define the places that are safe and unsafe, to distinguish us from them. A border is a dividing line, a narrow strip along a steep edge. A borderland is a vague and undetermined place created by the emotional residue of an unnatural boundary. It is in a constant state of transition. The prohibited and forbidden are its inhabitants.

Gloria E. Anzaldúa,

Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza

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Welcome!

Dear Conference Participants and Attendees,

On behalf of the Association and its Executive Board, we welcome you to the AGLSP Fall 2018 conference, centered on the theme of *Borders & Migrations!* We live in a world that is both globally connected yet deeply divided along many lines -- political, religious, racial, socio-economic, educational, technological, and so forth - and this reality presents many dilemmas, issues, and concerns.

Over the next two days, we look forward to stimulating presentations and engaging dialogue as we explore the dynamic interplay between that which keeps us apart (borders) and that which brings us together (migrations), and we invite you to join in this important conversation.

Special thanks to the faculty and staff of the Master of Liberal Studies program at Arizona State University for serving as this year's host. Thanks, also, to the AGLSP home office at Rice University for their assistance in handling the details for this year's event. And thanks to each of you for attending -- let the exploration begin!



Martha L. Banz, Ph.D.
President
AGLSP

Pre-Conference Schedule

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

Tempe Mission Palms Hotel & Conference Center

- 7:45 am [Cloister Room] **Breakfast**
- 8:45 am [Dolores Room] **Introduction and Welcome:** Martha Banz, President, AGLSP
- 9:00 am - 10:30 am [Dolores Room] **Session I: Making your GLS Space a Place**
Organized by Christopher Pastore (U. Of Pennsylvania), Jill LeRoy-Frazier (East Tennessee University), Wole Ojurongbe (Dartmouth College)
- 10:30 **Break**
- 10:45 am - 12:15 pm [Dolores Room] **Session II: Navigating GLS: Detours & Roadblocks**
Organized by Martha Banz (U. Of Oklahoma) and Steven Burr (Loyola University Maryland)
- 12:15 pm [Cloister Room] **Lunch**
- 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm [Dolores Room] **Session III: Project Humanities as a Model for Community Engagement**
Dr. Neal Lester, Project Humanities
- 3:00 pm **Break**
- 3:15pm - 4:45pm [Dolores Room] **Session IV: GLS Without Borders**
Organized by Michael Garval (North Carolina State University) Rebecca Sharp Sanchez (Rice University), Jerry Van Hoy (University of Toledo)
- 4:45pm **Closing Remarks:** Martha Banz, President, AGLSP

Conference Schedule

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

Tempe Mission Palms Hotel & Conference Center: [Cloister Room]

- 6:00 pm **Welcome Reception**
- 6:45 pm Opening Remarks: Jeffrey J. Cohen, Dean of Humanities, (Arizona State University)
- 7:00 pm **Keynote: Professor Alberto Rios, Regents' Prof.** (Arizona State University) Introduced by Paul Morris, Director, MLSt program (Arizona State University).

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

Tempe Mission Palms Hotel & Conference Center: [Cloister Room]

- 7:30 - 8:45 am **Breakfast**
- Memorial Union - ASU Campus, Tempe**
(rooms for panels listed on the detailed schedule, starting on pg.10)
- 9:00 am - 10:30 am **Concurrent Sessions I**
- 10:45 am - 12:15 pm **Concurrent Sessions II**
- [12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch at Mission Palms Hotel: Cloister room]**
- 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm [Pima Auditorium] **Keynote Speaker: Virginia Grise:**
Introduction by Angela Giron, Interim Director, MLSt program, ASU
- 3:15 pm - 4:45 pm **Concurrent Sessions III**

Tempe Mission Palms Hotel & Conference Center: [Cloister Room]

- 6:30 **Reception** (*La Luz de la Luna* - Female Mariachi band)
- 7:15 **Banquet Dinner; Student Awards Presentation** by Dr. Martha Banz, Associate Dean, (University of Oklahoma):
Excellence in Interdisciplinary Writing: Meg Cook, Reed College: "America's Poshlust Vacuum: The Young-Girl, Émigré, and Artist in Nabokov's Lolita".
Excellence in Creative Writing: Audra Coleman, University of North Carolina - Asheville: "Bubo Virginianus"
Performance by Zarco Guerrero, Introduced by Angela Giron, Interim Director, MLSt program, ASU

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

Tempe Mission Palms Hotel & Conference Center: [Abbey South]

- 7:30 - 9:30 am **Breakfast & AGLSP Business Meeting**
- 10:00 am **Optional Excursions:** Check the AGLSP home office conference page to download the PDF for suggested excursions.
<https://www.aglsp.org/annual-conference-2018>

Concurrent Sessions

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

Memorial Union - ASU campus, Tempe

_____ Concurrent Sessions I: 9:00 - 10:30 am

PANEL ONE: Overcoming Barriers to Migration and Education

[MU 226
Graham] Moderator: Rebecca Sharp Sanchez, Rice University

“Children at the Gate: A 2016 Study of Minors Crossing the U.S.- Mexico Border”

James M. Abernathy, Rice University

“The Ebb and Flow of U.S. Second Generation Immigrant Success”

Robin Van Hoy, University of Toledo

“Undocumented in the United States: Education Possibilities - Kindergarten, College, and Beyond”

Cherie Hoepfl, Rice University

PANEL TWO: Challenging Religious, Regional and Urban Borders

[MU 236
Mohave] Moderator: Jill LeRoy-Frazier, East Tennessee University

“Deconstructing the White Picket Fence: Single-family Dwellings as Urban Borderlands”

Jennifer Chutter, Simon Fraser University

“Beyond This Border There Be Monsters: 250 Years of Demonizing Appalachians”

Cat Pleska, Arizona State University

“The Light of the World and the Children of the Sun: Christian Mysticism and Yezidism”

Aline Lindemann, Arizona State University

_____ Concurrent Sessions II: 10:45 - 12:15 am

PANEL THREE: Deconstructing Racial, Gender and Sexual Borders in U.S. and Canada

[MU 226
Graham] Moderator: Rebecca Byrkit, Arizona State University

“Insecure Borders: Threats to White Power Posed by Crossing Sexual Boundaries”

Sara J. Stevens, Duke University

“The Racial Boundaries of Freedom: California Campaign for Proposition 14”

Gene Slater, Stanford University

“Border of Identity: How a Historical Myth Circumscribes Ideas of Gender”

Colin Chapell, The University of Memphis

_____ Concurrent Sessions II: 10:45 - 12:15 am (continued)

PANEL FOUR: Exile, Migration, Identity and Otherness in Literature

[MU 236
Mohave] Moderator: Steven Burr, Loyola University Maryland

“In *Exilium*: The Language and Experience of Exile”

Natalya Barker, Duke University

“Identity, History and Migration: Decentering the Narrative”

Wendy McCredie, Mount Saint Mary's University

“Literary Journeys: New Places and New Selves”

Joy Hunter Austin, University of Memphis

PANEL FIVE: Borders & Migrations in a High-Tech World:

[MU 246
Coconino] From the **Interstellar to the Digital**
Moderator: Rob Wilson, Arizona State University

“Safe Space, Incubator, DMZ? The Seminar between the Human & the Network”

Mathieu Debic, Southern Methodist University

“Meet Alexa”: Voice-Mediated Consumption and Gendered Artificial Intelligence”

Libby O'Neil, Reed College

“Navigating the Digital Divide”

Mary Lou Anderson, Reed College

_____ Lunch at Mission Palms/Cloister room: 12:30 - 1:30 pm

_____ Keynote Speaker: 2:00 - 3:00 pm

[Pima
Auditorium] **Virginia Grise** – Curator, Educator, Writer, Theatre Artist
Introduction by **Angela Giron**, Interim Director,
MLSt program - Arizona State University.

_____ Concurrent Sessions III: 3:15 - 4:45 pm

PANEL SIX: U.S.- Mexico Border: Activism, Human Rights,

[MU 226
Graham] **Rhetoric and Embodiment**
Moderator: Wole Ojurongbe, Dartmouth College

“Civil and Human Rights across the U.S.-Mexico Border”

Fisayo Ogundoro, East Tennessee State University

“Beyond the Wall: Performing Re-Imaginings of ‘La Frontera’”

Carla Melo, Ph.D., Arizona State University

Concurrent Sessions III: 3:15 - 4:45 pm

PANEL SIX; continued

“The Effects of National Immigration Rhetoric on Local Policy”

Citlaly Mora, Duke University

“Embodied Dream Acts”

Megan Todd, Ph.D., Arizona State University

PANEL SEVEN: Reclaiming Borders Crossers and Oral Histories

[MU 236 Mojave]

Moderator: Cat Pleska, Arizona State University

“Terror, Trauma and Totalitarianism: Lifting the Veil of Silence”

Kristina Kwacz, SUNY Empire State College

“The Literary Missing Link: The Dark Gothicism of Fitz-James O’Brien”

John P. Irish, Southern Methodist University

“Bisbee ‘17: Labor, Deportations and the Spectre of Modern Genocide”

Rebecca Byrkit, Arizona State University

PANEL EIGHT: Crossing Disciplinary Borders, in Academia and Preschool Education

[MU 246

Coconino]

Moderator: Michael Garval, North Carolina State University

“I Know What You’re Thinking: Bringing Neuroscience, Peacebuilding and Preschoolers Together”

Nana Sledzieski, U. of North Carolina, Charlotte

“Borders and Migration in the Academy: Do Silos Shrink or Strengthen with a Focus on Liberal and Interdisciplinary Studies?”

Jennifer Coleman, Western New Mexico University

“On the Perforation of Borders Between Sister Disciplines of the Philosophy of Science and Science, Technology & Society”

Derek Gatlin, North Carolina University

Keynote Speakers

Alberto Ríos

“Different Cultures, Different Possibilities”



Alberto Álvaro Ríos is the author of ten books and chapbooks of poetry, three collections of short stories, and a memoir. His books of poems include, most recently, *The Dangerous Shirt*, along with *The Theater of Night*, winner of the 2007 PEN/ Beyond Margins Award, *The Smallest Muscle in the Human Body*, finalist for the National Book Award, *Teodoro Luna’s Two Kisses*, *The Lime Orchard Woman*, *The Warrington Poems*, *Five Indiscretions*, *Whispering to Fool the Wind*, which won the Walt Whitman Award. His three collections of short stories are, most recently, *The Curtain*

of Trees, along with *Pig Cookies* and *The Iguana Killer*, which won the first Western States Book Award for Fiction, judged by Robert Penn Warren.

His memoir about growing up on the Mexico-Arizona border, called *Capirotada*, won the Latino Literary Hall of Fame Award and was designated the One Book Arizona choice for 2009. Ríos is the recipient of the Western Literature Association Distinguished Achievement Award, the Arizona Governor’s Arts Award, fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Walt Whitman Award, the Western States Book Award for Fiction, six Pushcart Prizes in both poetry and fiction, and inclusion in The Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry, as well as over 300 other national and international literary anthologies.

His work is regularly taught and translated, and has been adapted to dance and both classical and popular music. Ríos is a Regents’s Professor at Arizona State University, where he has taught since 1982 and where he holds the further distinction of the Katharine C. Turner Endowed Chair in English.

In 2013, he was designated the inaugural Arizona Poet Laureate, and in 2014 was elected to the Board of Chancellors of the Academy of American Poets.

Keynote Speakers

Virginia Grise

“These are my papers: An Artist Reflects on Borders & Walls”

From *panzas* to prisons, from street theatre to large-scale multimedia performances, from princess to *chafa* - Virginia Grise writes plays that are set in bars without windows, barrio rooftops, and lesbian bedrooms. Her play *blu* was the winner of the 2010 Yale Drama Series Award and was recently published by Yale University Press. Her other published work includes *Your Healing is Killing Me* (Plays Inverse Press), *The Panza Monologues* co-written with Irma Mayorga (University of Texas Press) and an edited volume of Zapatista communiqués titled *Conversations with Don Durito* (Autonomedia Press).



Virginia is a recipient of the Whiting Writers' Award, the Princess Grace Award in Theatre Directing, the Playwrights' Center's Jerome Fellowship, the Loft Literary Center's Spoken Word Fellowship, Pregones Theatre's Asuncion Award for Queer Playwriting, and is a Time Warner Fellow Alum at the Women's Project Theatre Lab. Her work has been produced, commissioned and/or developed at the Alliance Theatre, Bihl Haus Arts, Cal Arts Center for New Performance, Company of Angels, Cornerstone Theatre, Highways Performance Space, Playwright's Center, Pregones Theatre, REDCAT, Soho Rep, Victory Gardens, Women's Project and Yale Repertory Theatre. In addition to showing people her panza in college classrooms, cafeterias and conference halls all across the nation, she has also performed both nationally and internationally at venues including the Jose Marti Catedra in Havana, Cuba and the University of Butare in Rwanda, Africa.

As a curator, artist and activist she has facilitated organizing efforts amongst women, immigrant, Chicano, working class and queer youth. Virginia has taught writing for performance at the university level, as a public school teacher, in community centers, women's prisons and in the juvenile correction system. She holds an MFA in Writing for Performance from the California Institute of the Arts and is currently a member of the Writer/Director Lab at Soho Rep in New York. Virginia is the 2018/2019 Projecting All Voices Fellow at Arizona State University.

Session Speakers

James M. Abernathy, Rice University

“Children at the Gate: A 2016 Study of Minors Crossing the U.S.- Mexico Border”

The Rev. James M. Abernathy is a retired Episcopal priest who grew up in Victoria, Texas, and now lives in Palacios, Texas. He received a B.S. in civil engineering from the University of Texas in 1958, a Master of Divinity from the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in 1970, and was ordained that year. He received an MLS from Rice University in 2016, and his current paper is based on his Capstone research.

Mary Lou Anderson, Reed College

“Navigating the Digital Divide”

I have a serious love of learning and the Masters of Liberal Arts program allows me to exercise that passion. I am originally from Eastern Canada but moved to Portland, Oregon 18 years ago. My undergraduate degree is in Film and Media Arts. I have enjoyed a career working with the museum community, in film production and publishing. I generally choose a direction based on interest which more or less makes me a jack of all trades, master of none.

Dr. Joy H. Austin, University of Memphis

“Literary Journeys: New Places and New Selves”

Joy Hunter Austin, a native of Tennessee, received her English Specialist and Doctor of Arts degrees from the University of Mississippi. She worked for many years in a small liberal arts college and has taught courses in composition, American literature, and English literature. Now a faculty member of the University of Memphis, Joy teaches primarily in the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program, where she has learned to appreciate the quality of online education.

Natalya Barker, Duke University

“In *Exilium*: The Language and Experience of Exile”

Natalya Barker graduated from Duke University's Graduate Liberal Studies program in 2016. Prior to her degree at Duke, she completed a bachelor's degree in literature at Skidmore College, with a capstone project focusing on literary interpretations of exile. Ms. Barker currently works as an educational content editor. She also serves as a community organizer in various capacities, including on the Board of Directors for a charter school, as a community educator for an NAACP voter education initiative, and as a precinct chair for the Democratic party.

_____ *Session Speakers; continued*

Rebecca Byrkit, Arizona State University

"Bisbee '17: Labor, Deportations and the Spectre of Modern Genocide"

Assistant Clinical Professor of Liberal Studies and Creative Writing, Rebecca is a founding faculty member of the MLSt program at Arizona State University. She's an award-winning author of four books of poetry, including *zealand* and *Whoa*. Her work has appeared in *Best American Poetry*, *Rolling Stone*, *Arizona Highways*, *Ploughshares*, *Crazyhorse*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Exquisite Corpse*, and elsewhere. She played several roles and worked as a consultant on the postmodern western documentary *Bisbee '17*, based largely on the published research of her father. She is currently editing an anthology of memory-based writing and visual art called: *Mnemozyne: A River of Modern Memory*.

Colin Chapell, The University of Memphis

"Border of Identity: How a Historical Myth Circumscribes Ideas of Gender"

Dr. Colin Chapell is the Graduate Coordinator in the University College at the University of Memphis. His first book, "Ye That Are Men Now Serve Him: Radical Holiness Movement and Gender in the South," explores the influence of faith on gender construction among white Protestants at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries in the American South.

Jennifer Chutter, Simon Fraser University

"Deconstructing the White Picket Fence: Single-family Dwellings as Urban Borderlands"

Jennifer Chutter is currently working on her PhD in Liberal Studies at Simon Fraser University. She is looking at the concepts of home and place-making by comparing the intersection of housing and ideas of home in the Vancouver neighbourhoods of Strathcona and the West End. Through the lens of story-telling, she hopes to uncover different ways of belonging to neighbourhoods. This research builds off of her MA in Liberal Studies and MA in Urban History. Jennifer has also worked for the Graduate Liberal Studies Program at Simon Fraser University for the past eight years.

Jennifer Coleman, Western New Mexico University

"Borders and Migration in the Academy: Do Silos Shrink or Strengthen with a Focus on Liberal and Interdisciplinary Studies?"

Dr. Jennifer Coleman was the founding Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies at Western New Mexico University. She oversaw degrees ranging from the associate's to master's level at the time of greatest growth in program history. She is a professor of Psychology but also a true interdisciplinarian, with degrees spanning six fields. She has led several cross-campus initiatives throughout her career and has experienced the push and pull of colleagues to both collaborate and be recognized for their unique expertise. Dr. Coleman is also the founder of a program that supports research/creative works by students at WNMU.

Mathieu Debic, Southern Methodist University

"Safe Space, Incubator, DMZ? The Seminar between the Human & the Network"

Mathieu Debic is a recent graduate of the MLS program at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, where he also works as a high school English teacher in a private school for students with learning disorders. His interests include social and technological change, science fiction, and the writing process, especially as a means of forming the self in the digital age. He completed his master's thesis on the work of contemporary French philosopher of society and technology Bernard Stiegler, whose work he continues to read and wrestle with productively.

Derek M. Gatlin, North Carolina University

"On the perforation of borders between sister disciplines of the Philosophy of Science and Science, Technology & Society"

Derek M. Gatlin is a Proposal Developer within the NC State University Office of Research Innovation, Proposal Development Unit. He supports faculty across the university with the development of proposals to the largest (over \$1 million), interdisciplinary, and multi-institutional grants including strategies, narratives, budgets, and various other submission requirements. Derek has a B.A. in Sociology from NC State University and he is pursuing a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree with a concentration in *Grant Writing and Research Development*. He is developing a thesis with the working title of "*University Discourse in Support of Interdisciplinary Research Grant Proposal Development*."

Cherie Hoepfl, Rice University

"Undocumented in the United States: Education Possibilities - Kindergarten, College, and Beyond"

Cherie Hoepfl is a graduate of Texas A&M University (B.B.A. Marketing) and the University of Houston (M.B.A. Management). Cherie currently studies in the MLS program at Rice University and the Graduate College of Social Work at the University of Houston. A mother of three children, she has pursued careers in international commerce and taught English in Japan to high school students and computer software to junior college students in Houston. Her paper addresses the need for a clearer path for undocumented students to successfully find jobs after receiving a high school and college education in the United States.

John P. Irish, Southern Methodist University

"The Literary Missing Link: The Dark Gothicism of Fitz-James O'Brien"

John P. Irish is a D.L.S. candidate at Southern Methodist University. He has advanced degrees in Political Science, Philosophy, and the Humanities. He teaches AP U.S. History, American Studies, and Advanced Topics classes at Carroll Sr. High School in Southlake, Texas. His previous two M.A. thesis topics were on "John Locke and Property" and the "Philosophical Thought of John Adams." Currently his graduate research is on the philosophical ideas of the mid-nineteenth century Irish-American immigrant writer Fitz-James O'Brien, the "Irish Poe." He is currently editing the first complete writings of this little known writer.

_____ *Session Speakers; continued*

Kristina Kwacz, SUNY Empire State College

“Terror, Trauma and Totalitarianism: Lifting the Veil of Silence”

Some family stories are so dramatic that they overshadow the next generation and obscure identity. Seeking answers to puzzling questions about borders, migration, and family history, Kristina Kwacz structured a Master’s degree program to explore the factors surrounding the twenty-year separation of her parents during and after WWII. Her research considers this period through historical, cultural, political, and social lenses. Completed during 2017, Kristina’s capstone project combines family photos, memoir, and artifacts in an exhibition outlining the chronology of her family in historical context. In conveying her perspective and perceptions, Kristina’s identity emerges—beyond her parents’ traumatic story.

Aline Lindemann, Arizona State University

“Christian Spirituality and Yezidism: Parallel Journeys”

Aline Lindemann is a faculty associate at Arizona State University, an artist and an independent researcher of Christian Mysticism and Yezidism. Her work takes her to refugee camps and communities within the U.S. and Europe where she acts as a humanitarian aid distribution volunteer and gatherer of stories.

Wendy McCredie, Mount Saint Mary’s University, Los Angeles

“Identity, History and Migration: Decentering the Narrative”

Prior to coming to Mount Saint Mary’s, Dr. McCredie held administrative and faculty positions at Mount Mary University (Milwaukee, Wisconsin) and Texas Lutheran University (Seguin, Texas) and worked in editorial and public relations roles for the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). She holds a Ph.D. in comparative literature and an M.A. in French from the University of Texas at Austin and a B.A. in literature from Yale University. Her research interests include literature by women, ethics and literary language and literary theory. She has published articles in these areas as well as on church-related (Lutheran) higher education.

Carla Melo, Ph.D, Arizona State University

“Beyond the Wall: Performing Re-Imagings of ‘La Frontera’”

Dr. Melo is a theatre artist, educator and scholar whose creative and academic research lives at the intersections of performance and activism in the Americas, focusing on the ways in which the body in public space foregrounds and contests marginalized histories and collective memory. Her work has been published in several collected volumes, as well as in the *Canadian Theatre Review*, *TDR - The Drama Review*, *Theatre Journal*, *E-misférica*, *Latin American Theater Review*, and *Latin American Cultural Studies*, among others. Carla is graduate faculty at ASU’s Masters of Liberal Studies Program, and has also taught at ASU’s Herberger Institute, UCLA, York, McMaster and Brock universities.

Citlaly Mora, Duke University

“The Effects of National Immigration Rhetoric on Local Policy”

Citlaly Mora is a graduate student at Duke University. She received her undergraduate degree in International Studies from Elon University. She currently works as the Senior Director for the Women’s Resource Center and Latino Family Center at the YWCA High Point. She is originally from Morelos, Mexico and now resides in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Fisayo Ogundoro, East Tennessee State University

“Civil and Human Rights across U.S.-Mexico Border”

Oluwafisayo Ogundoro is a first-year master student of the Masters in Liberal Arts program at East Tennessee State University and her concentration is in Gender and Diversity Studies. She is an advocate of sustainability and development. She believes nations can achieve growth and development if individuals, institutions, organizations, and governments can seek equal opportunities for all. She believes that equality is vital and that no race, gender or social class is superior to the other. This belief inspires her desire to focus her study on gender and social justice. She also speaks fluent French and she translates documents from French to English and vice-versa.

Libby O’Neil, Reed College

“Meet Alexa”: Voice-Mediated Consumption and Gendered Artificial Intelligence”

Libby is currently a MALS student at Reed College in Portland. In 2014, she graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in Aerospace Engineering, then worked briefly as an engineer in Kansas City. After an academic change of heart, she moved to Portland in 2016 to pursue further studies at Reed College. She currently studies modern history and critical theory, with a focus on the social roles of technology, religion, and gender.

Cat Pleska, Arizona State University

“Beyond This Border There Be Monsters: 250 Years of Demonizing Appalachians”

Cat Pleska, MFA, is an award-winning author, an editor, educator, publisher, and storyteller. She teaches full time for Arizona State University’s Master of Liberal Studies Program. She enjoyed a long stint as an essayist for West Virginia Public Radio, a book reviewer for West Virginia University Press and *The Charleston Gazette*. Her first book, *Riding on Comets: a Memoir* was published by West Virginia University Press (2015). She recently edited *Voices on Unity: Coming Together, Falling Apart*, a collection of prose and poems that speak to the current uneasy times (2017 Mountain State Press).

Session Speakers; continued

Gene Slater, Stanford University

“The Racial Boundaries of Freedom: California Campaign for Proposition 14”

Gene Slater received his Master of Liberal Arts from Stanford in June 2018. He has a BA from Columbia, *summa cum laude*, a Masters in City Planning from MIT, a traveling fellowship to the London School of Economics and a mid-career Loeb Fellowship from Harvard. He helped found and chairs CSG Advisors, which has been the leading financial advisor in the country for financing affordable housing and major public-private projects. His MLA thesis on Proposition 14 connects his work on housing with his long-standing interest in how conservative visions of freedom opposed the civil rights movement.

Nana Sledzieski, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

“I Know What You’re Thinking: Bringing Neuroscience, Peacebuilding and Preschoolers Together”

Nana Sledzieski is integrating cognitive science with peace education at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Her goal is to develop classroom management strategies and conference workshops that encourage peaceful neural development among preschool children. She is also managing editor at the Copper Fern Studio, LLC and was recently the owner and Head of School at Brown Tufts Montessori in Woodbury, CT. Nana is a compassionate and effective leader who develops strong relationships with clients and colleagues, and who works to build positive relationships with both adults and students from all ideologies and backgrounds based on respect, sensitivity, and discretion.

Sara J. Stevens, Duke University

“Insecure Borders: Threats to White Power Posed by Crossing Sexual Boundaries”

Sara Stevens, Duke University. Sara Stevens received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 2012. She began her Master’s at Duke University the Fall of 2017 and will defend her thesis Fall of 2019. Her Master’s thesis aims to explore the relationship between sexuality and sexual misconduct policies in higher educational institutions.

Megan Todd, Arizona State University

“Embodied Dreaming”

Dr. Megan Anne Todd earned her Ph.D. in Theatre/Performance of the Americas and M.S. degree in Exercise & Wellness (Arizona State University). She has published in the *Journal of Pan African Studies*, *Theatre Journal*, *Journal of Bodywork and Movement Therapies* and *The Sonic World of Dance Film*. Dr. Todd teaches and develops curriculum in humanities, dance/performance studies, as well as embodied movement disciplines. She is invested in performance-based research and artistic projects that constellate wellness, arts, justice, learning and action. She is passionate about collaborating creatively and critically to develop and activate work that forges a more just, equitable and better world.

Robin Van Hoy, University of Toledo

“The Ebb and Flow of US Second Generation Immigrant Success”

Robin Van Hoy is a Sociology graduate student at The University of Toledo in the Department of Sociology & Anthropology, currently working on her master’s thesis. She is also employed full-time as the Director of Student Services in the Department of Bioengineering at The University of Toledo. Her research interests include Demography and Population Studies, especially as it pertains to a person’s access to resources based on their geographic location. She is also interested in the study of problems in higher education.

Invited Artists

Performance: Zarco Guerrero: Sculptor, mask maker and performance artist who has dedicated his artistic endeavors to create positive social change through the arts. He adopted Cesar Chavez ideology of art as a social service. His art includes music poetry and theatre. He is the founder of Xicanindio Artes (now Xico, Inc.), the Cultural Coalition, Inc., and has been instrumental in the development of Latino Arts statewide. He has exhibited and received International acclaim and many prestigious awards. In 1985 PBS broadcast a one-hour documentary about his art entitled “The Mask of El Zarco”. He received the Japan Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Arizona Governors Arts Award, the Artistic Excellence Award from American Hispanics in Higher Education and the Esperanza Teacher of the Year Award among many others. He is the recipient of a Doris Duke Foundation grant to present theater to Latino communities in Arizona. In 2015 he was recognized as a Master by the Southwest Folklife Alliance. The New Times named him “Best Storyteller” in 2016. In 2017 he was chosen to design the Light Rail Station at Baseline and Central Avenues in Phoenix.

Live Music: La Luz de la Luna is a collaborative duo or trio, based in Phoenix, AZ. Born out of a passion for traditional Mexican folkloric music, La Luz brings a raw and intimate approach to classic styles such as Rancheras, Boleros and Huapangos. Being immersed in the rich cultural heritage of Mexican American culture was a blessing for the ladies of La Luz. The passion, the food, the dance, the arte, the MÚSICA has inspired them to share this music with the world. The concept is simple. Keep it simple. Just like our family gatherings, one or two people playing guitar (maybe more instruments if you’re lucky) and EVERYONE singing. All the songs that we’ve grown up with that bring you back to times with family and loved ones. Always sung with reverence and always con PASIÓN!!!

Invited Speaker

Dr. Neal Lester is a Foundation Professor of English and Founding Director of Project Humanities at Arizona State University. He has been a Professor of English at Arizona State University since 1997, having taught previously at the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa) and the University of Montevallo (AL). His areas of specialization are African American literature and cultural studies. Dr. Lester earned his B.A. in English and was Valedictorian at the State University of West Georgia (Carrollton). He took his M.A. and Ph.D. in English at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN) and is the first African American to receive the doctorate degree in English at Vanderbilt. The author or co-author/editor of seven books-- among them *Ntozake Shange: A Critical Study of the Plays* (1995) and *Understanding Zora Neale Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God: A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historical Documents* (1999) -- Dr. Lester has published, lectured, and taught extensively in the area of African American Studies. A popular public speaker, frequent radio guest, regular op ed contributor, newspaper columnist and blogger, and discussion facilitator, Dr. Lester has an extensive record of lectures and keynote addresses, local and national media interviews, guest speaker events, scholarly consultations, conference presentations, and editorials. As well, he has received numerous teaching and scholarly awards and recognitions.

Chief Conference Coordinator

Angela Giron is the Interim Director and a Clinical Assistant Professor of the Masters of Liberal Studies Program at Arizona State University. She has developed numerous Humanities courses for the MLSt program with a strong focus on film content. In the summer of 2015 Angela presented her paper, "The Missing - Geriatric Female Sexuality in Film Content & Cinematography" at the Film-Philosophy conference at St. Anne's College, Oxford University, England. Inspired by the Film-Philosophy conferences that she's attended, she recently launched an introductory course on Film-Philosophy. Ms. Giron has worked professionally in theatre and film out of Chicago, Los Angeles, Montreal and Toronto, Canada. Among her many TV and film credits, one of her favorite portrayals was in the role of Alice B. Toklas in the film, *The Moderns* (1988) directed by Alan Rudolph. She performed her most recently authored play, "Nitza - A Cuban Flavor" at the United Solo Festival, NYC, in October 2016. She is a long time member of the Screen Actors Guild and an ASU Faculty Affiliate of the Center for Film, Media and Popular Culture as well as a member of the ASU Faculty Women of Color Caucus.

Acknowledgements

Welcome to Tempe and Arizona State University. We are pleased to host the 2018 AGLSP Conference and hoping to restart what may become a continuing series of yearly AGLSP gatherings. Those who work in the academic areas of graduate liberal studies need to share ideas, examine our place within university curriculums and ponder the possible futures for our study areas. Our use of the liberal studies to examine and reflect on the conference topic of borders and migrations seems increasingly timely and important in the world today.

Any event like this one is dependent on the hard work of many people and groups. As this is the first conference our program has sponsored, we have found a challenging yet exciting learning curve in the art of hosting.

We thank the AGLSP Board of Directors and Staff who offer advice and suggestions based on their experience with past events. Here on the campus, we must call out the hard work of the ASU Master of Liberal Studies instructors and staff. We thank our Interim Director Angela Giron, Dr. Carla Melo who has worked diligently on this brochure, and Professor Rebecca Byrkit. Cynthia Haros, program manager, also worked to coordinate the meeting rooms, hotels and event catering. Please thank them when you see them.

Neal Lester (ASU Project Humanities), Alberto Rios (Arizona Poet Laureate), Jeffrey Cohen (ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences), the staff of the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing (including Angie Dell, Jake Friedman, Ashley Wilkins, Felicia Zamora and Danta Tribke) gave generous of their time and advice to support this event.

Most of all, we need to thank you. As conference attendees, we appreciate your commitment to liberal studies and for your willingness to share your ideas and research. Thank you.

Paul Morris, Associate Professor, MFA, MA
Founding Director, *Master of Liberal Studies program*
Affiliate, Creative Writing Program
Affiliate, Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing
Affiliate, Honors Faculty
Affiliate, Center for Film, Media and Popular Culture

AGLSP National Honor Society

Forming a Chapter of the AGLSP National Honor Society is easy and takes just a few minutes of your time. Give your eligible graduates an opportunity to showcase their academic achievements at your commencement exercises! Please contact the Honor Society Membership Chair, Rebecca Sharp Sanchez, at rksharp@rice.edu if you have any questions, or use the QR code to submit your chapter application!



Acknowledgements

Welcome to Tempe and Arizona State University. We are pleased to host this conference – which has been planned across many borders – as it takes a village to bring us to this day.

In further recognition of the many folk who have been ever so helpful in their contributions to making this 2018 Borders and Migrations themed AGLSP conference a go; I would like to thank our MLSt Faculty and Faculty Associates who attended our first planning meeting and offered their enthusiasm and ideas. I would like to thank the Call for Papers reading committee that included Dr. Carla Melo, Dr. Megan Todd, Professor Cat Pleska and Professor Aline Lindeman. In addition, from and beyond our MLSt team, I'd like to thank all faculty and our own faculty associate Robert Wilson for agreeing to moderate panels. Rebecca Byrkit, thank you for your willingness to share your *Bisbee 17* (2018) knowledge and experiences with the history of the town that this new highly touted documentary film concerns. Dari Bradley, thank you for your willingness to volunteer your time and support during the conference days. Carla Melo, I'd be lost without you. Your generous work with compiling panels, panel titles and the design and implementation of this very brochure we're reading is deeply appreciated. Many thanks to Cynthia Haros who worked to coordinate all aspects of the conference; including publicity, plus her hand and support every step of the way. Paul Morris, ongoing thanks to you throughout the process.

Across state borders, the AGLSP new home office at Rice University has been of considerable help in collaborating. Thanks to you both, Kim Raptis and Rebecca Sharp Sanchez. AGLSP Board members that deserve special thanks in these collaborations are Michael Garvel (North Carolina University), Christopher Pastore (University of Pennsylvania) and lastly, our current president Martha Banz (University of Oklahoma).

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Tamara Underiner, Associate Dean & Associate Professor of the School of Theater and Film for guiding me toward one of our Keynote Speakers; Virginia Grise, and then offering viable support from Performance in the Borderlands. Clearly, I would like to thank Virginia Grise for offering to share her profound talents and praxis of "artivism" for us all to consider in the humanities. Mary Stephens, I continue to learn from all the Performance in the Borderlands events that you spearhead and thank you for connecting me with Andria Bunnell and *La Luz de la Luna*. Zarco Guerrero, *mi compadre, muchisimas gracias!* I am so excited to have these performances at the Banquet.

Cheers,
Angela Giron - Interim Director
Master of Liberal Studies - Founding Faculty
Transforming learning, discovery and lives

DISCLAIMER: *We will be taking photographs and videos during the conference keynotes and some sessions that may be used on the AGLSP or Stanford University websites.*