

Fall 2015: Convention Committee Meeting Agenda *and Minutes*
Thursday 24 Sept 2015
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- I. **Introductions** *and thanks to Sarah Dangelantonio for the beautiful 2015 Albuquerque convention*

- II. **Feedback from 2015 Albuquerque Convention**
 - a. **From student evals**
 - i. **More Thursday morning workshop options**
 - ii. **Retain Friday night "off"**
 - b. **From other sources, including this committee**
 - i. **Loved the convention theme / host city connection**
 - ii. *Thanks to alumni epsilon for its members work in judging submissions, moderating panels, working the registration desk, among other tasks.*

- III. **What is staying the same from 2015 -- announcements**
 - a. **Volunteers to handle part of the event**
 - i. **Ad-Hoc Committee**
 - ii. **Beth DeMeo and Sidney Watson will handle roundtable submissions**
 - iii. *Have asked for help with the Sponsor Workshop on Thursday at 11:00 am from Bob Crafton and Kevin Stemmler. Beth DeMeo and Sid Watson will organize the New Sponsor Workshop at 9:30 am on Thursday.*
 - b. **Local Bookseller -- ours will be Magers and Quinn.** *They are at 3038 Hennepin Ave S, Minneapolis and they will be set up on the fourth floor near the registration desk and outside the 4th floor ballrooms where Charles Baxter and Kao Kalia Yang will speak.*
 - c. **We have at least one local host chapter -- the U of St. Thomas, whose main campus is in St. Paul, but who also has a satellite campus on Nicollet Mall. This chapter is sponsored by Elizabeth Wilkinson and Matt Batt.** *The College of New Jersey will also act as a host chapter.*

- IV. **Small changes we are instituting**
 - a. **Two keynote speakers – Charles Baxter, author of our Common Text *Soul Thief* will speak on Thursday evening, and Kao Kalia Yang, author of *The Late Homecomer* will speak on Saturday afternoon before the Gala. No Wednesday night keynote, exactly, and we have three poetry readings as an Opening Night kick-off with Gary Dop and two to-be-named poets from *The Loft*.**
 - b. **More workshops**
 - i. **Thursday morning will have three workshop slots at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00, and the first is dedicated only to student leadership workshops, and the last only to other workshops, with the middle slot available to both workshop types.**

1. Workshop on applying to graduate school in creative writing (Micah Hicks w/ ~ 2-3 local area graduate students working on an MFA or MA or PhD in creative writing)
2. Workshop on Careers in Publishing (Gary Dop with Chris Fischbach [Coffee House Press, which published Yang's memoir] and with Jeff Shotts [executive editor at Graywolf]), with other participants still sought
3. Workshop on Considering a career in a nonprofit
4. Workshop on Crafting a strong Sigma Tau Delta Scholarship application (John Kerrigan)
5. Workshop on Technical Writing Careers (Susan de la Vergne) – this speaker has cancelled her appearance as of 1 Dec 2015

The group discussed this new Saturday morning change as it will affect Student Leadership workshops, which had met from 8:30-10:45 am in ABQ. Students will have the option to leave the student leadership workshops halfway through and elect to attend two convention chair workshops in addition to the first half of the student leadership workshop. A compromise was reached in which the Student Leaders agreed to have a natural stopping point in their 8:00-10:45 am time slot so that some students could leave them and attend another workshop. The student leadership workshops will offer four separate topics and each student can select 2 of the 4 to attend. The convention chairs agreed to offer only two competing workshops at 9:30 am, so as to minimize the number of students tempted to leave the Student Workshops early. Both Gary Dop and Micah Hicks have agreed to present their workshops twice – once at 9:30 and once at 11:00 am. So far, the Scholarship workshop and the Careers workshops are meeting only at 11:00 am. Some changes may be forced by A/V equipment demands.

- ii. Two Saturday morning slots at 9:30 and 11:00 will also have a few workshops sprinkled among Break out Sessions
 1. A second run of the Scholarship apps workshop
 2. Careers in Non-Profits/Higher Education Administration (Traci Thomas Card)
 3. “How to Read and Teach Shakespeare” will be offered twice back to back on Saturday morning by a master teacher from the Folger Library.
 4. Incorporating LGBT YA fiction in the classroom – has been proposed and accepted as a roundtable and will be scheduled on Thursday afternoon in the A/V space.
- iii. Still open to ideas here
- iv. We were reminded that we will need 4 SKD roundtable slots and 1 NEHS roundtable slot.

- c. **Friday night fun event** – Student Leadership would like to host a fun Friday night event – a pool party – we are obtaining permission to do so, and the hotel will be sure to house only convention goers in the rooms by the pool.

- V. The bigger changes we have instituted.
 - a. Categories for submission are now more closely matched to Convention Paper Awards

Critical Essay

- British Literature before 1500
- Early Modern British Literature (1500-1750)
- Enlightenment and Romanticism (1750-1850)
- Victorian and Pre-War British Literature (1850-1914)
 - *We discussed creating an overlap between the two categories above, ending Enlightenment and Romanticism at 1850, but beginning Victorianism with 1837 (the actual year Victoria takes the throne), but this change was not yet made in EBMS.*
- 20th/21st Century British Literature
- Colonial American Literature
- 19th Century American Literature
- 20th/21st Century American Literature
- Multicultural American Literature (African, Latino/a, Native, Asian)
- World Literature (Anglophone)
- World Literature in translation
- Popular Culture, Film, and Media
 - *An older category, "Film and Media" was somehow retained in EBMS, even though this new category, which ought to have superseded it, was added. When essays in both categories were reviewed, the two categories were combined by the convention chairs and examined together.*
- Teaching English Language/Literature; Practices/Pedagogy
- Linguistics or Rhetoric
- Children's/Young Adult Literature
- Graphic Novels/Memoirs
- AltLit
- Common Reader *The Soul Thief*

Creative Writing

- Original Drama/Screenplay
 - Original Fiction
 - Original Poetry
 - Creative Nonfiction
 - Common Reader *The Soul Thief*
- b. The submission process has 4 drop down menus for keywords, and students are asked to select a keyword (or "other") from the drop down menu. Students who select "other" then have the option of typing in their own keywords. All these keywords were selected by examining the list of every keyword typed in by

students in 2014 for the 1015 convention. We hope to use them to help craft Breakout Sessions.

Keyword Group: Theme

Please select the theme most important to your work.

Abolition/ Slavery; Addiction / Mental Health; Alienation; America / American values; Animals (and Humans); Apocalypse / End Times / Eschatology; Authenticity / Deception; Beauty / Ugliness; Birth or Rebirth; Capitalism / Industry; Carnival(esque); Ceremony / Hospitality; Change / Transformation; Child / Adolescent / Family; Convention Theme ; Death / Trauma / Grief; Diversity; Dreams / the Unconscious; Educational Institutions; Fame / Celebrity Status; Friendship / Enmity; Holocaust / Genocide; Humor / Satire; Identity / Identity Politics; Imperialism / Colonization; Liminal moments & places; Loneliness / Abandonment; Pedagogy; Romance / Love; Social Class; Symbols / Fetishized Objects; Theism / Atheism; Utopia / Dystopia; Virtues / Vices; Voyaging / Questing; War; Other

- *We made a very few changes to the theme drop down menu based on the committee meeting. "Authentic/Deception" was simplified to "Authenticity." "Gender" and "veterans" and "LGBTQIA+" were added themes.*

Keyword Group: Genre

If yours is a creative submission, you should select the genre of your submitted work. If, however, you have written a critical essay, you should select the genre of the primary text or work you discuss. Select "other" only if no other genre category approximates the genre of the work you have studied.

Allegory; Autobiography/Memoir; Bildungsroman (Coming of Age); Children's Literature; Confessional literature; Digital Media; Drama, Comic; Drama, Tragic; Epistolary Literature; Fairy Tales; Fantasy; Film & Television; Flash Fiction; Folklore, Fables, or Myth; Frame tales; Gothic; Graphic Novel; Horror genre fiction; Lyric Poetry; Magical Realism; Marriage Plot; Metafiction; Music or Song Lyrics; Mystery genre fiction; Narrative Poetry; Picaresque Novel; Prose Non-Fiction; Realism; Romance genre fiction; Satire; Science Fiction; Travelogues; Utopia/Dystopia; Young Adult Literature; Other (your choice).

Keyword Group: Author

If yours is a creative submission, you should either select "other" or select an author who has inspired your creative work. If, however, you have written a critical essay, you should select the author of the primary text or work you discuss if they are included in the list. Choose "other" if they are not on the list and supply their name(s).

Austen, Jane; Brontë Sisters; Chaucer, Geoffrey; common reader author; Conrad, Joseph; Dante Alighieri; Dickens, Charles; Donne, John; Douglass, Frederick; Eliot, T. S.; Ellison, Ralph; Faulkner, William; Fitzgerald, F. Scott; Hawthorne, Nathaniel; Hemingway, Ernest; Joyce, James; Keats, John; Marlowe, Christopher; Melville, Herman; Milton, John; Morrison, Toni; O'Connor, Flannery; O'Neill, Eugene; Poe, Edgar Allan; Rowling, J. K.; Rushdie, Salman;

Shakespeare, William; Shelley, Mary; Tolkien, J. R. R.; Twain, Mark; Vonnegut, Kurt; Wilde, Oscar; Wilder, Thornton; Woolf, Virginia; Other.

Keyword Group: Critical Methodology

If yours is a creative submission, you should select “other.” If, however, you have written a critical essay, you should select the critical methodology you have followed in your analysis.

Anthropology/Linguistics; Archetypal / Mythic Criticism; Autobiographical Criticism; Cultural Studies; Deconstruction / Post-Structuralism ; Dialogic Criticism (Bakhtin) ; Disability Studies; Ecocriticism / Ecofeminism; Feminist Criticism; Gender Studies; Marxist Criticism; New Critical / Formalism / Close Reading; New Historicism; Old Historicism; Political Criticism; Postcolonialism; Psychoanalytic / Psychological Criticism; Queer Theory / LGBT theory; Reader-Response Criticism; Reception Theory; Structuralism/Semiotics; Trauma Theory; Other

- The only change here was to use “LGBTQIA+” in place of LGBT.

VI. *Shannin Schroeder had some announcements about the 2017 Louisville Convention. We discussed “[Re]memory” as a possible theme, and Jeff Vandermere’s Wonder Book and Cynthia Kadohata’s The Floating World as possible Common Readers.*

VII. **New Business** – *We adjourned at an hour too late to be recorded.*