

Keynote Speaker Biography



TANYA AGATHOCLEOUS is Associate Professor of English at Hunter College, CUNY. She researches and teaches Victorian literature and culture, as well as twentieth-century Anglophone literature in transnational, colonial, and postcolonial contexts. She is interested in the relationship between transnational political ideals and literary form, and in bridging the gap between Victorian, modernist, and postcolonial scholarship. She is the author and editor of several books, including *Urban Realism and the Cosmopolitan Imagination in the Nineteenth Century* (Cambridge UP, 2011), *Teaching Literature: A Companion* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2002), and *George Orwell: Battling Big Brother* (Oxford UP, 2000). She also edited the Broadview Press edition of Joseph Conrad's *The Secret Agent* and a special issue of *Victorian Literature and Culture* on "Victorian Cosmopolitanisms."

With Gratitude...

Special shout-out to the 2017 Graduate Conference Committee who organized this conference! Today wouldn't have been possible without the enthusiasm and hard work of Maria Bulzone, Jessica Klett, Beth Sherman, and Amanda Torres.

Many thanks also to the English Department Chair, Professor Glenn Burger, and Associate Chair, Karen Weingarten; Kim Smith, Tiffany Thomas, John Rice, and the entire English Department staff; our keynote speaker, Professor Tanya Agathocleous; our panel chairs, Professors Hugh English, Maaza Mengiste, Veronica Schanoes, and Amy Wan; our graduate student presenters; and the entire QC English community for your support. Thank you for making the fourth annual QC English Graduate Conference a success!

The QC MA Program in English Presents
Our 4th Annual English Graduate Conference

DIFFICULT TEXTS: Literature in a Time of Crisis

Thursday, April 27, 2017

9:30am – 6:00pm

Muyskens Conference Room at the Summit



#difficulttexts

#QCMAEnglish

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

9:30 – 10:00 *Welcome and Coffee*

10:00 – 10:15 *Opening Remarks*

- Professors Caroline Kyungah Hong and Bill Orchard (Directors of Graduate Studies in English)
- Beth Sherman (on behalf of the 2017 Graduate Conference Committee)
- Professor Karen Weingarten (Associate Chair of English)

10:15 – 11:15 ***Panel 1 – The Anxiety of Keeping Up with Influence***

- Chair: Professor Maaza Mengiste
- Maria Theresa Bulzone, “Between Heaven and Hell: The Influence of Religious Ideals on Romantic Decisions in *Wuthering Heights*”
- Elma Rahman, “Forgetting to be Human: An Islamic Reading of *Paradise Lost*”
- Andrea Gallardo, “Taking Stock: Writing at the Heels of a Financial Crisis”

11:30 – 12:30 ***Panel 2 – Challenging Identities: Expressions of Truth through Queer Texts***

- Chair: Professor Veronica Schanoes
- Jessica Klett, “Stepping Out of the Closet: Integrating LGBTQ Literature in NYC Public Schools”
- Todd B. Henao, “The Repression and Expression of Body and Identity: Crisis of Identity in Alison Bechdel’s *Fun Home*”

12:30 – 1:30 *Lunch*

1:30 – 2:30 ***Panel 3 – From Protest to Transformation***

- Chair: Professor Hugh English
- John Giunta, “‘We Came in and Changed Things to the Way We Thought They Should Be’: Superfascist Utopias in 21st-Century American Comics”
- Malaurie Pilatte, “Pacifica Radio: Protest in Poetry”
- Kevin Anglade, “Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s Democraticized Voice: A Ventriloquism at Work in ‘The Runaway Slave’”

2:45 – 3:45 ***Panel 4 – We Speak in Tongues: Narratives of Women of Color***

- Chair: Professor Amy Wan
- Emily Jennings, “‘To be *almost* seemed to be worse than being *not at all*’: The Collective Memory and Revision in Patricia Park’s *Re Jane*”
- Tenisha McDonald, “A Black Narrative Voice: Genre, Authorship, and Authenticity in *The History of Mary Prince*”
- Amanda Torres, “‘I put it down on paper and then the ghost does not ache so much’: Sexual Ambivalence, Trauma, and Creative Reconciliation in *The House on Mango Street*”

4:00 – 5:00 ***Keynote Address – “The Uses of Disaffection,” Professor Tanya Agathocleous***

Best Conference Paper Award Presentation

5:00 – 6:00 *Reception*