

*Keynote Speaker Biography*



**COREY MCELENEY** is the author of *Futile Pleasures: Early Modern Literature and the Limits of Utility* (Fordham University Press, 2017). Essays based on this and other research have appeared in the journals *ELH*, *GLQ*, and *differences*, as well as in the collections *New Formalisms and Literary Theory* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013) and *The Age of Thomas Nashe* (Ashgate, 2013). He is currently working on a new book project tentatively titled *The Art of Overanalyzing*.

*WITH GRATITUDE...*

Special shout-out to the 2019 Graduate Conference Committee who organized this conference! Today wouldn't have been possible without the enthusiasm and hard work of Maria Bulzone, Alison Eldredge, Farrah Goff, Saidah Henderson, Tenisha McDonald, Sal Pisciotta, and Nandi Prince.

Many thanks also to the English Department Chair, Professor Karen Weingarten, and Associate Chair, Professor Andrea Walkden; Kim Smith, Jamie Arizmendy, John Rice, and the entire English Department staff; our keynote speaker, Professor Corey McEleney; our panel chairs, Professors Marco Navarro, Ala Alryyes, Hillary Miller, and Briallen Hopper; all our graduate student presenters; and the entire QC English community for your support. Thank you for making the sixth annual QC English Graduate Conference a success!

The QC English MA Program Presents  
Our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual English Graduate Conference

# **THE PURSUIT OF PLEASURE: Literature, Beauty, Repose**

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

9:30am – 6:30pm

Remsen Hall 017



#pursuitofpleasure

#QCMAEnglish

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

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9:30 – 9:45 *Welcome and Coffee*

9:45 – 10:00 *Opening Remarks*

- Profs. Caroline Hong and Bill Orchard (Directors of Graduate Studies in English)
- Farrah Goff (Member of the 2019 Graduate Conference Committee)
- Prof. Karen Weingarten (Chair of the English Department)

10:00 – 11:15 *Panel 1 – Encountering Nature*

- Chair: Prof. Marco Navarro
- Joseph Cáceres (City College of New York), “Profound Aesthetics, Profound Protest: An Ecocritical & Queer Reading of America’s Cultural Landscape in Richard Bruce Nugent’s ‘Smoke, Lilies and Jades’”
- Marym Khan (Queens College), “Ruffling Suspicions, Raising Winds, and Crafting Clouds: Scientific Performativity in Francis Bacon’s *New Atlantis*”
- Samantha Walsh (Hunter College), “Where Language Fails: Thoreau and Howe’s Natural Escapes”

11:30 – 12:45 *Panel 2 – Imagining Futures*

- Chair: Prof. Ala Alryyes
- Catalina Benavides (Long Island University, Post), “The Silent Struggles of Latinx: The Personal and Political”
- Aquilah Jourdain (City College of New York), “Tranquility Amidst Oppression: Exploring Hope in James Baldwin’s *If Beale Street Could Talk*”
- Andrew Schlosser (Long Island University, Post), “The Future of Narrative: Westerns”

12:45 – 1:30 *Lunch*

1:30 – 2:45 *Panel 3 – The Profundity of the Popular*

- Chair: Prof. Hillary Miller
- Maria Bulzone (Queens College), “Perpetual Orphanhood: The Paradoxical Enabling and Disabling Effects of Trauma in the Batman Mythology”
- Ellis Ging (Queens College), “Rites of Spring: Pleasure, Pain, and the Politics of the Body in *The Wicker Man* (1973) and *Apostle*”
- Sayed Karimi (Queens College), “Race, Identity, and Authority in *Zong!* and Gangster Rap”
- Sahar Soleimany (Teachers College, Columbia University), “Separate Moralities: The Limits of Truth and Justice in Asghar Farhadi’s *A Separation*”

3:00 – 4:15 *Panel 4 – Troubling Gender*

- Chair: Prof. Briallen Hopper
- Kenneth Dunckley (Queens College), “Wolverine and the Rehabilitation of Post-Vietnam Masculinity”
- Julie Kern (Queens College), “Foundations of Identity for a Mother and Daughter in *Mona in the Promised Land*”
- Alicia Farouk (Queens College), “Esther Greenwood’s Pursuit of the ‘Womb-Tomb’ in Sylvia Plath’s *The Bell Jar*”
- Luke Widlund (Hunter College), “Metaphysics and Female Torture Poetry”

4:30 – 5:30 *Best Conference Paper Award Presentation*

*Keynote Address by Prof. Corey McEleney (Fordham University)*  
*“The Art of Overanalyzing”*

5:30 – 6:30 *Reception*