

Fifty Years of Cormac McCarthy
October 8-10, 2015

Preliminary Conference Schedule

Thursday, October 8

- 1 p.m. Registration and check-in opens. University Center.
- 3 – 4:30 p.m. **Special session for first-time conference presenters.**
Jeffrey Scraba, University of Memphis, panel chair.
Details TBA.
- 4:30 p.m. Registration and check-in closes.
- 6:30 p.m. **Welcoming Reception**
Greetings: Rick Wallach, Ringmaster; Steven Frye, President, The Cormac McCarthy Society; Stacey Peebles, Editor, *The Cormac McCarthy Journal*. (Welcome by any designated representative of the University of Memphis – to be determined)
- 7:30 – 9:15 p.m. **Opening Panel: Fifty Years of Cormac McCarthy**
1. Fifty Years of McCarthy's Writing in Blood. David Harris, Deakin University (Australia).
 2. Is Cormac McCarthy a Nihilist? Shane Schimpf, editor, *A Reader's Guide to Blood Meridian*.
 3. Cormac McCarthy's Anti-Landscapes. Michael Madsen, University of Southern Denmark.
 4. A Palimpsestuous Relationship: Cormac McCarthy's Western Fiction and the Screenplay. David Otto Fitzgerald, University of Sydney (Australia).
 5. The Human Clock. Candy Minx, independent scholar.
- 9:30 p.m. until **The Musical Cormackians Jam Session. Eugene Young, Compère.**
Commons Area, Fogelman Ballroom, 4th Floor.

Friday, October 9

8:30 – 9 a.m. Registration and check-in; continental breakfast buffet

9 – 10:45 a.m. **Session I: *The Orchard Keeper* I**

1. Time, Identity, Motive, Voice: McCarthy's Revisions of *The Orchard Keeper* for Larry Bensky. Dianne C. Luce, Midlands Technical College, Emeritus.
2. The Past-oral Gothic in *The Orchard Keeper*. Jorge Gomez, El Paso Community College.
3. Against Abjection: Male Homosociality in *The Orchard Keeper*. Nell Sullivan, University of Houston Downtown.
4. The Orchard Keeper, Appalachia, and the Geologic Imaginary. Clarissa Nemeth, University of Kansas.
5. Parenting and Fatherhood in *The Orchard Keeper*. Scott Yarbrough, Charleston Southern University.

10:45-11 a.m. Break

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Session II: The Appalachian Period**

1. Narrative Modes in McCarthy's Early Novels: A Surface Reading. Bill Hardwig, University of Tennessee.
2. Place and Genre in *Outer Dark*. Jeffrey Scraba, University of Memphis.
3. A Sup of Water: The Dialectics of Consumption in *Outer Dark*. Casey Jergenson, Loyola University.
4. The Art of Seeing Lester Ballard. Christopher White, Governors State University.
5. Exploring McCarthy's Underground Ecologies in *Child of God* and *The Road*. Andrew Thomas, University of Wisconsin–Madison.

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 – 3:45 p.m. **Session III. Performance I**

1. The Studied Presence of Traditional and Popular Music in the Fiction of Cormac McCarthy. Gene Young, Sam Houston State University.
2. Memory and Nostalgia in John Hillcoat's Adaptation of *The Road*. Marie-Reine Pugh, Brigham Young University.
3. Adaptation as Performance: *The Road*. Tom Hendry, Birkbek College, London University.
4. Bears that Dance, Bears that Don't: The Troubled History of *Blood Meridian* and Film Adaptation. Stacey Peebles, Centre College.
5. The Terrible Truth about *The Sunset Limited*. Peter Weber, independent scholar.

3:45 – 4 p.m. Break

4 – 5 p.m.

Session IV. Religion, Irreligion, Sacrilege: Order and Disorder in Cormac McCarthy

1. Holy Chaos: Prophetic Voices in *Outer Dark*: Jay Beavers, Baylor University.
2. Storytelling: Cormac McCarthy's Narrative Religion. Emily Brower, Baylor University.
3. Embodying Place: Ecotheology and Deep Incarnation in *The Road*. Richard Russell, Baylor University.
4. Blowing Up Knoxville: Bryan Giemza, University of North Carolina.

5 – 5:15 p.m.

Break

5:15 – 6:45 p.m.

Session V. *The Orchard Keeper* II: Ethical Considerations

1. The Aesthetics and Ethics of Violence. Joseph D. Haske, South Texas College.
2. The Vanishing Boundaries of Human-Animal Coexistence in McCarthy's Novels. Liana Andreasen, South Texas College.
3. Letting Nature's Course: Levinasian Bonds and the Bounds of language. Robin Andreasen, South Texas College.
4. The Surveillance of Deviance: Teaching Foucault through *The Orchard Keeper*. Gabe Rikard, SUNY Sullivan.

7:45 p.m.

Plenary Dinner and Guest Speaker

Speaker: Brian Evenson

9:30p.m. until

Los Cormackianos Musicales, Redux. Gene Young, Maestro.

Commons area, Fogelman ballroom, 4th Floor.

Saturday, October 10

8:30 – 9 a.m. Continental Breakfast Buffet

9 – 10:45 a.m. **Session VI: *The Orchard Keeper* III**

1. Theology in *The Orchard Keeper*: Framing the Questions. Marty Priola, Webmaster, The Cormac McCarthy Society.
2. Interpreting the Opening Sequence of *The Orchard Keeper* along Religious Lines. Brett Lewis, Andover-Newton Theological School.
3. Of Fish and Fowl and Every Creeping Thing: Biblical Fauna in *The Orchard Keeper*. Wallis Sanborn, Our Lady of the Lake University.
4. The Burial of the Dead from *The Waste Land* to *The Orchard Keeper*. Marco Petrelli, University of Rome, Italy.

10:45 – 11 a.m. Break

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Session VII: Hidden Systems: McCarthy's Poetics of Determinism and Fatalism**

1. Fatal Loss in McCarthy's Tennessee. Brad Bannon, University of Tennessee.
2. Doom's Adumbration: *Suttree* and the Problem of Fatalism. John Vanderheide, Huron University College.
3. Mysteries of the Meridian Revealed: McCarthy's Anachronistic Tarot. Robert Kottage, East Tennessee State University.
4. Stasis and Movement in *The Road*. Eliot White, Millersville University.

12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Lunch Break

1:45 – 3 p.m. **Session VIII: Pedagogy**

1. Teaching *The Orchard Keeper* in High School. Jamie Brummer.
2. Teaching *No Country for Old Men* at the Secondary Level. Kristy Wilson.
3. McCarthy's Style in *The Orchard Keeper*: A Digital Approach. Delys and Phil Snyder, Brigham Young University.

3 – 3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 – 4:45 p.m. **Session IX: Performance II**

1. *The Sunset Limited*: Text and Film. Jean Cash, James Madison University.
2. "You see everything in black and white." AAVE, SAE and Philosophical Opposition in *The Sunset Limited*. Connie Yost, Millersville University.
3. *No Country for Old Men* on Film. Kyle Kearns, James Madison University.
4. The Place of *The Counselor* in Cormac McCarthy's Corpus. Amanda Freeman, James Madison University.

4:45 – 5 p.m.

Break

5 – 6:30 p.m.

Session X: McCarthy's West

1. The Barracuda: Cars and Trucks in McCarthy's Fiction. Lydia Cooper, Creighton University.
2. *The Counselor*: Nietzsche and an Unstable World. Brendan Mooney.
3. "A really dark landscape": *Blood Meridian* and Modest Mouse's *The Moon and Antarctica*. Benjamin S. West, SUNY Delhi.
4. "Like some supplicant to the darkness over them all": The Good of John Grady Cole in *Cities of the Plain*. Russell Hillier, Providence College.

6:30 p.m.

President's valedictory: Steven Frye

7 p.m.

At Liberty