

Fifty Years of Cormac McCarthy

October 8-10, 2015

Conference Schedule

All panel sessions will be held in the River Room, Third Floor (Room 300), in the University Center

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.
- 6-6:45 p.m. **Special Event:** Peter Josyph reads “Our Rhode Island Shakespeare” from his forthcoming eBook, *The Wrong Reader’s Guide to Cormac McCarthy: All the Pretty Horses*.
Fountain View Room, University Center
- Society Webmaster Marty Priola’s new publishing venture, Priola House, presents a collectible broadside of text and image by author and visual artist Peter Josyph, whose McCarthy-related exhibitions have shown worldwide. His books include *Cormac McCarthy’s House: Reading McCarthy Without Walls*, and *Adventures in Reading Cormac McCarthy*. Josyph will be available for Q&A at a signing event following the reading, where the broadsides may be purchased at special conference rates.
- 6-7:30 p.m. **Welcoming Reception**
Fountain View Room, University Center
- Greetings: Rick Wallach, Ringmaster; Steven Frye, President, The Cormac McCarthy Society; Stacey Peebles, Editor, *The Cormac McCarthy Journal*; Jeffrey Scraba, Department of English, University of Memphis.
- 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. The Past-oral Gothic in *The Orchard Keeper*. Jorge Gomez, El Paso Community College.
2. Against Abjection: Male Homosexuality in *The Orchard Keeper*. Nell Sullivan, University of Houston Downtown.
3. *The Orchard Keeper*, Appalachia, and the Geologic Imaginary. Clarissa Nemeth, University of Kansas.
4. 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.
(Short Break)
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 – 3:15 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.
(Short Break)
3. Adaptation as Performance: *The Road*. Thomas Hendry, 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.

3:15 – 3:30 p.m. Break

3:30 – 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

Fogelman Executive Center Dining Room, 3rd Floor (Entrance on 2nd Floor)

Speaker: Brian Evenson

9:30p.m. until

Los Cormackianos Musicales, Redux. Gene Young, Maestro.

Commons area, Fogelman ballroom, 4th Floor.

Saturday, October 10

- 9 a.m. Continental Breakfast Buffet
- 9:15 – 10:45 a.m. **Session VI: *The Orchard Keeper* III**
1. Interpreting the Opening Sequence of *The Orchard Keeper* along Religious Lines. Brett Lewis, Andover-Newton Theological School.
 2. Of Fish and Fowl and Every Creeping Thing: Biblical Fauna in *The Orchard Keeper*. Wallis Sanborn, Our Lady of the Lake University.
 3. 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.
 4. "Cowboys, Horses, Wolves, and Women: The Instructive Interspecies Relationships of Cormac McCarthy." Erica Tom, Rutgers 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, Independent Scholar.
 4. The Place of *The Counselor* in Cormac McCarthy's Corpus. Amanda Freeman, Independent Scholar.
- 4:45 – 5 p.m. Break

5 – 6:30 p.m.

Session X: McCarthy's West

1. *The Counselor*: Nietzsche and an Unstable World. Brendan Mooney.
2. "A really dark landscape": *Blood Meridian* and Modest Mouse's *The Moon and Antarctica*. Benjamin S. West, SUNY Delhi.
3. "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

Navigating the University

The official hotels for the conference are the Holiday Inn (HI, map coordinates E-4) and the Fogelman Executive Center (FEC, E-5). The FEC is located just to the south across Central Avenue from the Holiday Inn; from there, walking directions to the University Center (UC, G-11), where most of the conference events will take place, are as follows:

- Go out the main (west) entrance of FEC and turn left.
- Turn left onto pedestrian path just past the parkade, at the U of M sign.
- Turn right at the campus map to take the diagonal path across campus.
- Turn right where path ends; the UC is the huge building straight ahead, just opposite the clock tower.