The Cormac McCarthy Society Conference  
August 31-September 3  
Hilton Hotel, 500 E. 4th Street, Austin, Texas

DRAFT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

5:30pm – Check-in

6:00pm – Welcome

6:15pm – Session 1 – Beginnings

John Vanderheide: The Very Life of the Darkness: The Function of the Epigraphs in Blood Meridian
Katia Rostetter: ”The unspeakable has already occurred:” Language and the Unconscious in Cormac McCarthy’s Fiction

FRIDAY

8:00am – Check-in and Registration

9:00am – Session 2 – The Road

Eliot White: ‘Do you think I lie to you?’: Theory of Mind in The Road
Diletta De Cristofaro: Borrowed time and borrowed world”: Anti-apocalyptic Chronotopes in The Road
Katherine Sugg: “Narrating the Nonhuman in Zone One and The Road”
Layla Hendow: Recycling waste in Cormac McCarthy’s The Road and Blood Meridian

10:45am – Session 3 - New Frontiers in McCarthy Studies

Nell Sullivan: The Counselor, Pornography, and Femicide
Dianne Luce: The Genesis of Lester Ballard, Child of Outer Dark
Stacey Peebles: Kekulé in the Context of McCarthy Studies

Lunch [Off-site]

1:30pm – Session 4 - Borders, Border Crossings, Borderlands

CT Mexica: Decolonial Border Thinking in the Borderland Narratives of Cormac McCarthy
Calvin Hoovestol: No Company for Cold Men: Borderlands Naturalism of Cormac McCarthy’s Llewelyn Moss
Maria Anna Zazzarino: Representations of the US/Mexican Border: Violence and Aesthetics in Cormac McCarthy’s *Blood Meridian* and Roberto Bolaño’s *2666*

**3:00pm – Session 5 – Storytelling**

Jonathan Bishop: Coke Cans and ‘Carrying the Fire.’ Walter Benjamin’s ‘The Storyteller’ meets Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*
Lindsay Atnip: *Blood Meridian* and the Apocalyptic Sublime
Bryan Vescio: The Redemption of Language: McCarthy’s Wittgenstein
Fredrik Svensson: “Rigid homologues of viscera”: Autonomy and Heteronomy in the Novels of Cormac McCarthy

**4:45pm – Session 6 - Teaching McCarthy**

Andrew Virdin: McCarthy’s Writing for High School Students: An Exploration of Teaching His Novels in the Classroom
Briagha Stevens: Teaching McCarthy as Poet: Syntactic Symbolism in *The Road*
Cassie Polasek: A Pedagogical Approach to Teaching *Hamlet* through Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*
Scott Jarvie & Pat Sitzer: Pedagogies of the Plains: Reading and Teaching the Border Trilogy

**6:30pm – Reception**

**SATURDAY**

**8:00am – Check-in and Registration**

**9:00am – Session 7 – Theology, Cosmology, and Philosophy**

Russell Hillier: Two Men in a Trick Bag: Unpacking McCarthy’s “Professor of Darkness” and “Emissary of Jesus” in *The Sunset Limited*
Ben West: Cosmic Cormac: Space, Cosmology, and Multiverse Theory in the Works of Cormac McCarthy
Dave Cremean: Protestantism and Cormac McCarthy’s *The Sunset Limited: A Novel in Dramatic Form*

**10:45am – Session 8 - “Chaos, Chirality, and McCarthy’s Bleakscape”**

Richard Russell: “You must go on, I can’t go on, I’ll go on”: Beckett’s Influence on McCarthy
Bryan Giemza: Nature’s Script and McCarthy’s Order
Ryan Womack: “Moons, men, coins”: Chaos Science, Agency, and Catholicism in Cormac McCarthy

**12:15 - Lunch and Keynote: Don Graham - “Cormac McCarthy and the Texas Literary Tradition”**
1:30pm – Session 9 - Geography and Spaces

Nick Monk: Desert Gothic
Katerina Bartova: “The world has no name”: Maps and Mazes in Cormac McCarthy’s Fiction
Brad Bannon: “Where you from, heh?”: Specters of the North in McCarthy’s Fiction

3:00pm – Session 10 – Authority

Scott Yarbrough: Parents and the Border Trilogy
Jeff Scraba: “I always knew that you had to be willing to die to even do this job”: No Country for Old Men as Hardboiled Crime Fiction
Vincent Mennella: The Sociopolitical Authority of a True Dancer
Katja Laug: Cormac McCarthy’s Broken Bodies: An Aesthetics of Resistance

4:45pm – Session 11 - War and Conflict

Wallis Sanborn: Seeking the Vietnam War in the Coen Brothers’ No Country for Old Men
Charles Fox: For Better or Worse: Filmic Infidelity in No Country for Old Men and The Road
Tom Hendry: From Touch of Evil to Sicario: Placing the Film Versions of Cormac McCarthy’s No Country for Old Men and The Counselor into Themes of US/Mexico Cross-Border Drug Wars
Rick Wallach: Vietnam on the Border: Shadows of a Misbegotten War in Cormac McCarthy's Border Fiction

6:30pm – Reception

SUNDAY

8:00am – Check-in and Registration

9:00am – Session 12 – Violence

Adrian Mioc: The Nature of Violence in Blood Meridian
Stephanie Reents: The Absence of Interiority and Violence in Blood Meridian
Angel Lua: “Truths of Men, not of History”: Simulacra and the Rhetoric of Violence in McCarthy’s The Crossing
Christian Carter: The Gunpowder Communion: Syncretism and Ceremony in Blood Meridian

10:45am – Session 13 - Literary Influence and Response

William Cobb: From Samovars to Saddles: Contrasting Cormac McCarthy’s and Leo Tolstoy’s Visions of History
Jill Shreve: An Echo of Evil or The Devil 2.0: How McCarthy’s Judge Holden Is Based on O’Connor’s Voice and Lavender-Eyed Man
Liana Andreasen: The Living River of Suttree – Who Inspired and Who Was Inspired by McCarthy: from Twain and Faulkner to Haske and Cooper

Lunch [Off-site]

1:30pm – Session 14 - Men, Meaning, and Drinking

Jamie Brummer: McCarthy’s Turn to the West and American Manhood
Michael O’Halloran: Morality and Divinity in Nothingness
John Mark Robison: Beverages as Communal Symbol in No Country for Old Men

3:00pm – Closing Remarks