



English Department Colloquium
University of Illinois at Chicago
Schedule, Fall 2015 - Spring 2016

Direct queries to [Sunil Agnani](#) (English/History, UIC)

Location: Room 2028, University Hall, [601 S. Morgan Street](#) (Halsted/UIC Blue Line CTA stop, building near the corner of Harrison St & Morgan St)

Time: Fridays, 3pm-5pm (unless otherwise indicated)

Fall 2015 Semester

Thurs. Oct 1, 4pm

[Joshua Clover](#) (English, University of California-Davis). Panel on "Aesthetic and Political Form" with Joshua Clover, [Jennifer Ashton](#) (English, UIC), and [Nicholas Brown](#) (English/African-American Studies, UIC).

Fri. Oct 9

[V21 Conference](#). "Presentism, Form, and the Future of History." Co-organized by [Anna Kornbluh](#) (UIC, English). Other UIC participants include [Nasser Mufti](#) (UIC, English). Held at University of Chicago, Oct. 9-10.

Friday, Oct 23

[Cedric Johnson](#), (African-American Studies, UIC) & [Touré Reed](#) (History, Illinois State Univ.).

- The authors will discuss their recent articles published in [Nonsite.org](#): "[Working the Reserve Army: Proletarianization in Revanchist New Orleans](#)" and "[Why Moynihan Was Not So Misunderstood at the Time: The Mythological Prescience of the Moynihan Report and the Problem of Institutional Structuralism](#)"
- Also see: [Why Liberals Separate Race from Class](#) (in *Jacobin*) and [Marxism through the back door: An interview with Cedric Johnson](#) (from *Platypus*)

Fri. Oct 30

[Harris Feinsod](#) (English and Comparative Literary Studies, Northwestern University; Early Career Fellow, University of Pittsburgh Humanities Center, 2015-6). "Hazarding the Poetry of the Americas."

- This paper argues on behalf of a hemispheric literary history of modern poetry. Readings will focus on “questions of anticommunism” in the hemispheric lyric of the 1960s, with an emphasis on Bishop, Walcott, Neruda, and/or Padilla.

Fri, Nov 20

[Vincent Adiutori](#) (Ph.D. candidate, UIC). “The ‘War on the Commitment to War.’ On An American Literary Tradition of Total War”

- This paper considers the importance of the concept of total war as it appears in American literature after WWII to the present.

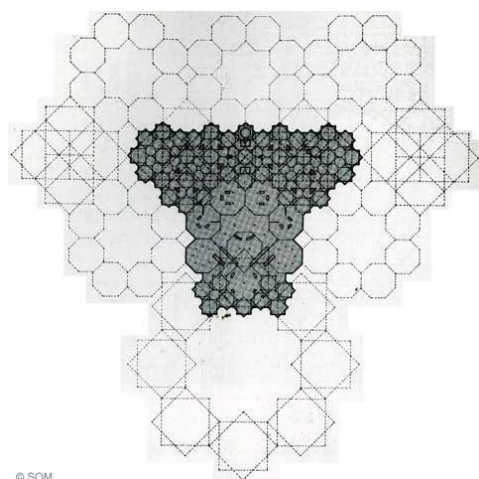
Fri, Dec 4

Last day of instruction. English Department Holiday Party, 12-2pm (UH 2028). Followed by Colloquium at 3pm.

[Trevor Strunk](#) (Ph.D. candidate, UIC). “The Dollar at the End of the Book: Vanessa Place, Inc, Innovation, and Failure”

- This essay reads both the poems and theory of Vanessa Place (as well as her corporate entity, Vanessa Place, Inc) in an effort to not only reject, but also to repoliticize the claim, popular in conceptual poetics, that money can be conceptualized as a semiotic system, and that therefore avant-garde poetry is potentially a constitutively anti-capitalist practice.

Spring 2016 Semester



Fri, Jan 22

[Pete Coviello](#) (English, UIC). “The Wild Not Less Than the Good: Thoreau, Sex, Biopower”

- This piece is a sort of state-of-the-field meditation with respect to queer studies. It takes up Thoreau’s vexed relation to the ascetic imperatives of nineteenth-century American capital in the context of his determination, as he says in *Walden*, to “love the wild not less than the good.”

Fri, Jan 29

[Gina Frangello](#). Introduced by [Cris Mazza](#) (English, UIC). “The New Publishing Landscape.”

- From before the book through publicity

Fri, Feb 5 at 4pm! (instead of 3pm). Note later starting time.

[Peter Mountford](#), author of [The Dismal Science](#) and *A Young Man's Guide to Late Capitalism*. "Capital Crisis: Personal Identity in an Era of Globalized Late Capitalism." [Pre-circulated readings](#).

- This reading and talk will focus on the themes of the fragility of identity, and the many complexities of finding oneself a vector on the grid of global capital, as represented in the fiction and nonfiction of novelist Peter Mountford.

Fri, Feb 19

[Ralph Cintron](#) (English/Latino & Latin American Studies, UIC), "The Idea of Property."

Introduced by [Robin Reames](#) (English, UIC)

- This is part of a larger project tentatively titled "Democracy as Fetish: Rhetoric, Fieldwork, and the Oligarchic Condition." I will examine how property functions within political economies and the nation-state.

Fri, Mar 4

[Mark Chiang](#) (English/Asian American Studies, UIC). "*America* in the World: Sex, Millenarianism, and Asian/American Politics."

- This paper seeks to reframe the work of Carlos Bulosan within a transnational/postcolonial context by exploring the disjunctures in his attempts to imagine what a Filipino/American politics might look like in the US v. the Philippines. In particular, the paper explores how these tensions manifest themselves in his vexed and conflicted depictions of sexuality.

Fri, Mar 11

[Shiben Banerji](#) (School of the Art Institute of Chicago). "Occult Modernism: Episodes in Translation from Bombay and Chicago"

- Reading occultism as a medium that translates and inscribes worlds, this talk opens a genealogy of contemporary global urbanism via early 20th century efforts at defining the city as an alternative to both empire and the nation-state.

Thurs, Mar 17 at 3:30pm (Note different day/time!)

[Loren Glass](#) (Professor of English and the Center for the Book, University of Iowa). "Fail Better: Literary Celebrity and Creative Nonfiction in the Program Era." Introduced by [Jennifer Ashton](#) (English, UIC)

- Loren Glass is Professor of English and the Center for the Book at the University of Iowa. His first book, [Authors Inc.: Literary Celebrity in the Modern United States](#), was published by New York University Press in 2004. His history of Grove Press, [Counterculture Colophon: Grove Press, the Evergreen Review, and the Incorporation of the Avant-Garde](#), was published by Stanford University Press as part of their Post*45 Series in 2013. He has written extensively on the rise of creative writing programs in the United States.

Fri. April 8

Program-for-Writers One-on-One reading. Introduced by [Cris Mazza](#) (UIC, English)

1. [Curtis White](#) (Emeritus, Illinois State Univ.)
2. [Adam Jones](#) (ABD, Program for Writers, UIC)

Fri. April 22

[Jon Beasley-Murray](#) (Dept. of French, Italian & Hispanic Studies, University of British Columbia, Vancouver). "Boom! Roa Bastos and the Multitude."

- This paper offers a reassessment of the Latin American literary efflorescence of the 1960s and 1970s via a re-reading of the work of Augusto Roa Bastos, whose novels *Son of Man* (*Hijo de hombre*, 1960) and *I, The Supreme* (*Yo el Supremo*, 1974) bookend the Boom by showing how Roa Bastos's interest in machinic processes opens out on what I call a "multitude," a polyvalent and expansive subject that challenges the stress on the people that otherwise dominates discussion of Latin American politics and culture.

Fri. April 29

Undergraduate [English Honors Thesis](#) Presentations

- The Office of Undergraduate Studies in English hosts the Spring 2016 Undergraduate Honors Thesis Presentations. Honors thesis presenters will share poetry, fiction, and excerpts from projects in literary, cultural, and rhetorical studies as the final requirement for highest distinction in the major. Refreshments will be served.