

**Carson McCullers in the World:
A Centenary Conference**

14 - 16 July 2017

John Cabot University

Rome, Italy

Co-sponsored by John Cabot University,
the Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians,
and the Carson McCullers Society

Conference Organizers:

Professor Carlos Dews, John Cabot University
Professor Casey Kayser, University of Arkansas
Professor Nick Norwood, Columbus State University

Exhibitions

Eleanor McDonald's installation, "Desire. Caught and Loose," will run continuously in Room G.G.1 (near the Aula Magna) during the hours of the conference.

"Artists Representing Carson," an exhibition of portraits of Carson McCullers, is installed in the Aurelian Wing of the JCU Library, located on the ground floor of the Guarini Campus. The exhibition will be open during the hours of the conference.

"A Star Named Carson," an animated film by Grande Dame / Tiff McGinnis, will be viewable on monitors in the Aurelian Wing of the JCU Library during the hours of the conference.

Performances / Screenings

A reading of Sue Walker's epic poem, *It's Good Weather for Fudge*, will be presented on Friday, 14 July, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. in the Aula Magna Regina.

Karen Swan's performance of her musical theatre piece, "Cappuccino Girl and the Shadow Man," will be presented on Saturday, 15 July, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Aula Magna Regina.

A screening of Lorenza Mazzetti's film, *Together*, will be presented on Friday, 14 July, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Aula Magna Regina. Following the screening, Ms. Mazzetti will discuss the making of the film. Curated and presented by Andrew Rutt and Elena Buia Rutt. **This event is open to the public.**

A screening of Karen Allen's short film "A Tree. A Rock. A Cloud." will be presented on Saturday, 15 July, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Aula Magna. **This event is open to the public and will be followed by a reception for all attendees, sponsored by John Cabot University President Franco Pavoncello.**

Computer / Internet / Wifi Access

Conference participants have internet access, via the following username and password, to the computer labs on the Guarini Campus, as well as access to JCU's WiFi network: Username: McCullers100 Password: TheHeart1940

Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, all events for the conference will take place in the Aula Magna Regina of the Guarini Campus of John Cabot University, Via della Lungara 233, Trastevere, Rome, Italy.

FRIDAY, 14 JULY

9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Conference Registration, entrance to Guarini Campus of John Cabot University, Via della Lungara 233. Welcome coffee and cornetti, Aula Magna Regina.

9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Welcome Remarks by John Cabot University Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean, Dr. Mary Merva, and conference Organizers Carlos Dews, Casey Kayser, and Nick Norwood.

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

LONELINESS AND ISOLATION IN McCULLERS'S WORK

Katalin G. Kállay, "The We of Me: Senses of Longing and Belonging in Carson McCullers"

Glenn Willis, "Privileged Isolation: Narrative Interiority and Prejudice in McCullers's Novels"

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ARTISTS RESPOND TO MCCULLERS'S WORK: A DISCUSSION

Eleanor MacDonald, Valentina Mazzei, Tiffany McGinnis, Karen Swan

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

A READING OF SUSAN B. WALKER'S *IT'S GOOD WEATHER FOR FUDGE: CONVERSING WITH CARSON McCULLERS*

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

LUNCH BREAK

3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CONSIDERING THE SHORT WORKS OF CARSON MCCULLERS

Alison Graham Bertolini, "Chewed Up and Spit Out: Consuming 'The Jockey' by Carson McCullers"

Casey Lee Kayser, "Illness and the Failure of Narrative in Carson McCullers's 'Breath

From the Sky”
Laura Gray, “What Should Be: McCullers’s Craft of Longing in ‘The Ballad of the Sad Café’”
Erica Plouffe Lazure, “A Café. A Silence. A Story.: A Close Reading of Carson McCullers’s Short Fiction”

4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

READING CARSON IN ITALY

Bianca Martinelli and Mariarosaria Savino, “Carson McCullers at Scampia: An Experience with Italy Reads”
Emilia Salomone, “The ‘Malady’ Dr. Copeland Was Unable to Treat”

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

“NEXT TO MUSIC, BEER WAS BEST”: CARSON McCULLERS AND MUSIC

Tara Keenan, “Songs of Love and Isolation: Coming of Age in McCullers and Vega”
Kiyoko Magome, “Carson McCullers’s Musico-Literary Democracy”

6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

BREAK

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

TOGETHER: CARSON McCULLERS AND LORENZA MAZZETTI

A film screening and discussion with director Lorenza Mazzetti. Curated and presented by Andrew Rutt and Elena Buia Rutt

SATURDAY, 15 JULY

10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Coffee and Cornetti, Aula Magna Regina

10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

McCULLERS, FREAKS, AND THE GOTHIC

Keith Byerman, “Blacks and (as) Freaks in the Fiction of Carson McCullers”

Alessandra Grego, “Monsters Without Being Myths: Freaks in Carson McCullers’s Fiction”

Shannon Russell, “Gothic Reverberations: Ann Radcliffe and Carson McCullers's ‘The Ballad of the Sad Cafe’”

Sun Danping, “Amazon versus Jasmine: A Comparative Study on the Femininity in Novellas of Carson McCullers and Mo Yan”

11:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

BREAK

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

CAPPUCCINO GIRL AND THE SHADOW MAN: A PERFORMANCE

Karen Swan

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

LUNCH

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FRIENDSHIPS AND INFLUENCES

Will Brantley, "Carson and Tennessee: The Politics of a Literary Friendship"

Jonathan Jones, "Silent Greatness and the American Dream in Carson McCullers's

The Heart is A Lonely Hunter and F Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*"

Annette Runte, "Angels, Tomboys, and Melancholy: Carson McCullers and the Swiss
Writer Annemarie Schwarzenbach"

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

McCULLERS INSTITUTIONS: A LOOK BACK AND A LOOK AHEAD

Alison Bertolini, Carson McCullers Society, President

Carlos Dews, Founding Director, Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians,
and Founding President, Carson McCullers Society

Casey Kayser, Carson McCullers Society, President Emeritus (2014-2016)

Nick Norwood, Director, Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

GENDER AND SEXUALITY I

James Mayo, "'Except for this Queer Marriage:' Taboo Pairings and Gender
Restrictions in "The Ballad of the Sad Café"

Liz Mayo, "'Some Unheard-Of Thing'": Xenophobia and Gender Conformity in *The
Member of the Wedding*"

Gary Richards, "*Clock Without Hands, Go Set a Watchman*, and the Queering of
Southern Integration"

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

BREAK

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

"A TREE. A ROCK. A CLOUD."

A screening and discussion with Director Karen Allen.

8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

RECEPTION

Sponsored by John Cabot University President Franco Pavoncello, Lemon Tree
Courtyard, Guarini Campus

SUNDAY, 16 JULY

9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Coffee and Cornetti, Aula Magna Regina

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

CARSON McCULLERS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Casey Kayser, Panel Organizer

Miho Matsui, "Queer Eyes: Cross-Gendering, Cross-Dressing, and Cross-Racing Miss
Amelia"

Barbara Rico, "'The State of Being Beloved is Intolerable to Many': The
Representation of the Marginalized in Two Postwar Narratives"

Stephanie Rountree, "An 'archaeology of [narrative] silence': Cognitive Segregation
and Productive Citizenship in McCullers's *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*"

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

A McCULLERS MISCELLANEA

Kerry Madden-Lunsford, "Carson, China, and a Marriage - Alphabetically"

Melanie Masterton Sherazi, "Affective Labor and Social Intimacy in Carson
McCullers'

Life Writing"

Antonio Giuliano Gutkowski, "McCullers's Philosophy of Existence"

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

GENDER AND SEXUALITY II

Lin Bin, "Female Alienation: Empowerment or Victimization?--A Cross-Cultural View
of Gendered Modernity in Carson McCullers and Eileen Chang"

Sarah-Marie Horning, "Does anyone want waiting on?": Love, Labor, Liquor and the
Utopian Function of Reproductive Work in 'Ballad of the Sad Café,' an
Ecofeminist Reading"

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

LUNCH

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

GRAPPLING WITH CARSON: FEATURED SPEAKER

Sarah Schulman

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

CLOSING REMARKS

Casey Kayser, University of Arkansas

Carlos Dews, John Cabot University

Nick Norwood, Columbus State University

Notes

Conference Participants

Karen Allen: Known for her work as an award winning actor in over forty feature films (*Animal House*, *A Small Circle of Friends*, *The Wanderers*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Starman*, *Scrooged*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Malcolm X*, *The Perfect Storm*, *The Sandlot*, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, *White Irish Drinkers*, and *Bad Hurt*) and on and off Broadway (*A Summer Day*, *Speaking in Tongues*, *The Monday After the Miracle*, *Extremities*, *The Country Girl*). Karen began directing theatre at Bard College at Simon's Rock and continued her work as a director at the Berkshire Theatre Festival in Stockbridge, MA (*Moonchildren*, *Extremities*) and in NYC with the Obie winning production of Lucy Thurber's *Ashville* at the Cherry Lane theatre. Her adaptation of McCullers's "A Tree. A Rock. A Cloud.," for which she wrote the screenplay, represents her debut film as a director. Winner of the International Short Narrative Film competition at the Manchester (UK) Film Festival, finalist in the USA Film Festival, and a featured selection of the Berkshire Film Festival, Karen's film stars Jeffrey DeMunn, James McMenamin, and—introducing—Jackson Smith.

Lin Bin is a female Chinese scholar whose academic interest lies in American literature, especially Southern literature and women's literature. She got her PhD from Peking University, and she is an English professor at Xiamen University, P.R. China. Over the past fifteen years, she has published a series of major McCullers papers with the top Chinese academic journals of foreign literature studies in addition to an English monograph on McCullers's major novels. She is now in charge of two major McCullers research projects in China respectively supported by Ministry of Education and National Social Science Foundation of China.

Will Brantley is a Professor of English at Middle Tennessee State University, where he teaches modern American literature, southern literature, professional writing, and film. Brantley has published widely on southern women writers including Carson McCullers; his *Feminine Sense in Southern Memoir: Smith, Glasgow, Welty, Hellman, Porter, and Hurston* (1993) received the Eudora Welty Award for an interpretive work of scholarship in modern letters. Brantley is also the editor of *Conversations with Pauline Kael* (1996) and the co-editor of *Conversations with Edmund White* (2017).

Elena Buia Rutt is a poet, translator and literary critic who holds degrees in Philosophy and Literature, and an MA in Journalism. As journalist, she has contributed to cultural programs on Italian television over the last 20 years and ongoing collaborations with national newspapers. A prize-winning essayist, Elena has written on Pier Vittorio Tondelli and Flannery O'Connor. Elena's first book of poems (*Ti stringo la mano mentre dormi, Fuorilinea*) was published in 2012, while her second (*Il mio cuore è un asino, Nottetempo*) in 2015.

Keith Byerman is professor of English, African American Studies, and Gender Studies at Indiana State University. He is the author of eight books, primarily on contemporary African American fiction. He is currently writing a study of narratives of Hurricane Katrina. He teaches courses in American, Southern, and African American literature and culture, as well as law and literature. He has lectured in Japan, Thailand, Poland, Finland, Austria, Germany, France, and the UK.

Sun Danping is a PhD candidate majoring in American literature of 20th century at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in Guangzhou, P. R. China. She is now working on her dissertation on Carson McCullers's fiction. Her research interest is feminist criticism and other issues of culture studies. Her master's thesis focuses on development of female's subjectivity in different layers of space reflected from Michael Cunningham's novel *The Hours*. Till now, she has published four articles on female character's identity and woman writer's literary creation, and has another manuscript

waiting for further editorial review and assessment.

Carlos Dews is the Director of John Cabot University's Institute for Creative Writing and Literary Translation. He edited the Library of America's Collected Works of Carson McCullers (2017) as well as the scholarly edition of *Illumination and Night Glare: The Unfinished Autobiography of Carson McCullers* (1999). He was the founding president of the Carson McCullers Society and the Founding Director of the Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians.

Antonio Giuliano Gutkowski graduated in English Literature, with minors in Philosophy and Creative Writing, from John Cabot University. In December 2016, during his last term at John Cabot, Antonio was fortunate enough to attend Professor Dews's honours course on Carson McCullers. Professor Dews's lessons gave him the opportunity to explore the connections between McCullers's prose and the greatest thinkers of her time, and the existentialists in particular. He is currently reworking his senior thesis, a study of the concept of symbolic form and of its application to the origin of the novel.

Alison Graham Bertolini is an Assistant Professor of English and Women's Studies at North Dakota State University. She researches and writes about contemporary American literature, especially literature written by women of the American South. Bertolini is co-editor of *Carson McCullers in the Twenty-First Century* (Palgrave 2016), and is the author of *Vigilante Women in Contemporary American Fiction* (Palgrave 2011). She is the current president of the Carson McCullers Society.

Laura Gray, a senior instructor of English at the University of Arkansas, has taught courses in composition and literature for over twenty years. Her service and pedagogical focus includes global community development initiatives in rural villages in Central America and the Mekong Delta in Vietnam where she has established ongoing relationships and programming between faculty, students, and community partners for the past decade. She earned her MA in English linguistics and her MFA in Creative Writing. Her teaching interests include southern fiction, with a focus on women's writing.

Alessandra Grego was born in London (UK) and raised in Rome, where she was educated in the Italian state system and earned a PhD in English Literature from La Sapienza University. After working at La Sapienza as a lecturer of English language, Alessandra joined the English Literature department at John Cabot University in 2003. Her area of study is myth as a form of narrative, which she has investigated in Victorian Literature (specifically George Eliot) and the novel in general, before turning her attention to the role of myth in digital animation and popular culture in the 21st century.

Sarah-Marie Horning is a PhD student at Texas Christian University where she serves as a Graduate Assistant for the TCU Press and directs an online undergraduate research journal. Her papers and presentations have covered Southern women writers such as Flannery O'Connor, Carson McCullers, and Zora Neale Hurston. Her current research explores the topic of androgyny in the works of Flannery O'Connor and Carson McCullers.

Jonathan Jones teaches English composition at John Cabot University. His PhD research interests are focused on F. Scott Fitzgerald and the American Frontier. He has been published in journals such as *Arlington Literary Journal*, *East Jasmine Review*, *The Dr T.J.Eckleburg Review*, *Cordite Poetry Review*, *Washington Square* and *War, Literature and the Arts*. He has also taught composition at the American University of Rome.

Katalin G. Kállay teaches American literature at Károli Gáspár University in Budapest and used to offer summer courses at the University of California in Santa Cruz. She took an M.A. at L. Eötvös University in Budapest and defended her Ph.D. at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Her first book on nineteenth-century American short stories, *Going Home Through Seven Paths to Nowhere: Reading Short Stories by Hawthorne, Poe, Melville and James* was published in 2003 by the Hungarian Academy of Science. Her fields of research include nineteenth- and twentieth-century American fiction, especially Southern women writers, Hungarian literature in English, literary responses to the Holocaust and the relationship between philosophy and literature.

Casey Kayser is a clinical assistant professor of English at the University of Arkansas, where she teaches courses in literature and medical humanities. Her research specialties include narrative medicine; modern and contemporary American literature and drama; southern literature, drama, and culture; folklore; and gender studies. Her work has been published in *Midwestern Folklore* and she has essays forthcoming in *Mississippi Quarterly* and the *Journal of Medical Humanities*. She served as president of the Carson McCullers Society from 2014-2016 and still serves on the executive committee. She is coeditor of *Carson McCullers in the Twenty-First Century* (2016).

Tara Keenan specializes in teaching composition and research methods. She graduated from New York University with a B.A. in English education and an M.A. in Literature. She earned a Ph.D. from Trinity College Dublin for her research on women in politics in Ireland and Europe. She has taught history, politics, sociology, writing, and research methods courses in Ireland, New York and Italy. Currently, she teaches composition and directs the Writing Center. Her book, *Irish Women and Street Politics*, was published by Irish Academic Press in 2010.

Erica Plouffe Lazure is an instructor of English at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. She is the author of two fiction chapbooks, *Heard Around Town* and *Dry Dock*, and her short fiction has appeared in *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern*, the *Greensboro Review*, *Meridian*, *American Short Fiction*, *Litro*, and *Flash: the International Short-Short Story Magazine*, and elsewhere. She has earned degrees in literature, and creative writing, and journalism from UMass Amherst (BA), East Carolina University (MA) and Bennington College (MFA). An avid traveler, Lazure enjoys snorkeling and has lived for short stints in Nepal, Bali, and Viterbo, Italy.

Kerry Madden-Lunsford is the Director of Creative Writing at UAB and mentors in the MFA program at Antioch University in Los Angeles. She is the author of the Appalachian trilogy: *Gentle's Holler*, *Louisiana Song*, and *Jessie's Mountain*. Her novel, *Offsides*, was a NYPL Pick for the Teen Age. *Up Close Harper Lee* (Viking) made *Booklist's* Ten Top Biographies for Youth. She has published stories in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Shenandoah*, *Salon*, and *Washington Post*. *Nothing Fancy About Kathryn and Charlie* was illustrated by her daughter, Lucy, published by *Mockingbird*. *Ernestine's Milky Way* will be published by *Random House* in 2019.

Kiyoko Magome: After teaching at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, East Stroudsburch University, and the University of Houston, I came to Japan and have been working on research and teaching at the University of Tsukuba as Associate Professor. My publications related to Carson McCullers include "Two Years of Counterpoint" (*Southern Studies*, 2004), *The Influence of Music on American Literature Since 1890* (The Edwin Mellen Press, 2008), "Democracy Realized through Music and Its Collaboration with Literature" (*Soundings*, 2009), and "The Image of a String Quartet Lurking in The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter" (*Carson McCullers in the Twenty-First Century*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2016).

Bianca Martinelli is a teacher of English Language and Civilization at ISIS De Nicola, Liceo

Scientifico, in Naples. She graduated with honors at Federico II University in Naples in 1990. Her dissertation was about William Faulkner narrative techniques. After a year working as Italian Assistant in British Upper Schools and Colleges, she eventually returned to Italy, where she worked as a teacher of Italian to Foreign People from 1991 to 1996. In 1996 she started her career as a primary school teacher and in 2010 she moved to the upper secondary school, where she has been teaching English in vocational as well as grammar schools.

Miho Matsui is an Associate Professor of English at Sapporo City University, Japan. Her doctoral dissertation at Hokkaido University (2014) was "Passing into the Darkness: Sexuality, Race, and Integration of the Segregated in the Works of the Southern Renaissance." She has published several essays on southern writers including Frances Newman, Julia Peterkin, William Faulkner, and Carson McCullers in Japanese literary journals. At the Carson McCullers Interdisciplinary Conference in 2011, she presented "Exploring Southern Queerness: Desire and Identity in Reflections in a Golden Eye," which was published as an essay titled "Reflections in a Filipino's Eye: Southern Masculinity and Colonial Subject" in *ANQ: A Quarterly Journal of Short Articles, Notes and Reviews* in 2013.

James Mayo is an Associate Professor of English at Jackson State Community College in Jackson, TN, where he teaches courses in American Literature and English composition. He has served as President of the Carson McCullers Society and editor of the society's newsletter. He co-edited, with Carlos Dews, McCullers's "Great Eaters of Georgia," originally published in *The Oxford American* magazine and reprinted in *The Library of America's Carson McCullers: Stories, Plays, & Other Writings*. He lives on the old family farm in Tennessee with his wife Liz Mayo and their two daughters.

Liz Mayo is a native southerner who received her Ph.D. in Textual Studies from the University of Memphis. She is associate professor of English and advisor for the Human Rights Club at Jackson State Community College in Jackson, Tennessee. Liz recently published an article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* on teaching nontraditional students. She currently resides in Pinson, Tennessee with her partner James and two daughters.

Valentina Mazzei: Born in Rome, Italy, in 1965, Valentina Mazzei has lived in several countries and studied sculpture in Rome, London, UK, Paris, France and Guadalajara, Mexico. Her passion for sculpture runs parallel with her love for literature, and she was awarded a PhD in Late Medieval French Literature by the University of Sheffield (UK) in 2008. Portraiture is her favourite theme, and her main influences are Roman portraiture and Medieval sculpture. Her latest ongoing project, 'Women of their words' focusses on portraits of women writers whose work she admires, and presently includes Flannery O'Connor, Carson McCullers, Virginia Woolf, Emily Dickinson, Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, as well as Italian writers Alda Merini and Elsa Morante.

Lorenza Mazzetti: Director, novelist and painter, Lorenza Mazzetti was born in Rome, 1927. Tenacious and daring, Lorenza's first novel, *Il Cielo Cade* (The Sky Falls) recalls the atrocious events witnessed at her paternal aunt's villa at the close of WWII. The novel won the Premio Viareggio, in 1962, and in 2000 was adapted to film starring Isabella Rossellini. After the war, Lorenza moved to London, and studied at the Slade where she began to work with film. Her second film, *Together* (1956), about a pair of deaf-mute dockworkers and shot in London's East End, is loosely based on Carson McCullers, *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, and takes its title from the novel's opening line. Lorenza is credited as being one of the founders of the Free Cinema movement with *Together*.

Eleanor McDonald is a visual artist, medical practitioner and psychotherapist based in Melbourne, Australia. Her ongoing multidisciplinary studio practice incorporates drawing, painting, printmaking

and research for film-based installation projects. The work investigates the relationships between the sentient and the inanimate. Through the commonplace and its topographies, a sublime and poetic dialogue is offered. The intimate, inchoate and vestigial are articulated, placing the viewer in their midst. Past work includes an exchange exhibition: 'High/Low Exotico', involving artists working collaboratively in Australia and Columbia, for the Melbourne Fringe Festival; and visual design/print production for the contemporary dance performance: 'Co-ordinates', at Dancehouse /Centre for the Moving Arts, Melbourne, Australia.

Grande Dame / Tiff McGinnis is a UK based, self-taught, multi media artist who makes music, animations, and a range of various art works in different mediums. Tiff was born and raised in the deep south of Columbus, Georgia. A child of the 1970's, she was heavily influenced by psychedelic animations, black light posters, rock & roll, pinball and the movie Tommy. She creates colourful animated videos to accompany her own music with a truly unique style of audio/visual storytelling. Psychedelic, bold, and entertaining, her videos provoke thought and laughter. Her work has been shown around the globe, including Spike & Mike's Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation. Alabama 3, MTV, Giphy, and Facebook have all commissioned her work. And you can currently see many of her animations in the latest iphone campaign – iphone 7 – Sticker Fight. In addition to the animation – Grande Dame is an accomplished artist and designer – taking images from her videos and making everything to silk screens, light boxes, fabric, wallpaper, porcelain plates and more. She has collaborated with Couture Shoe Designer Terry de Havilland, late light designer Chris Bracey of God's Own Junkyard, and even had her fabric inside a mutant vehicle at Burning Man.
<http://www.grandedame.co.uk>

Nick Norwood is Professor of Creative Writing at Columbus State University and directs the Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians in Columbus, Georgia, and Nyack, New York. A widely published poet and critic of poetry, his most recent book of poems is *Gravel and Hawk*, winner of the Hollis Summers Prize. His poems have appeared in such places as *The Paris Review*, *The Oxford American*, *Shenandoah*, *American Life in Poetry*, *The Writer's Almanac* with Garrison Keillor, and elsewhere. His critical essay on Seamus Heaney recently appear in *Estudios Irlandeses*, published at the University of Barcelona.

Gary Richards has published widely on Southern literature and culture. His book, "Lovers and Beloveds: Sexual Otherness in Southern Fiction, 1936-1961" (Louisiana State University Press, 2005), interrogates how mid-20th-century Southern writers such as Truman Capote, Richard Wright, Lillian Smith, Carson McCullers, and Harper Lee represent regional sexualities. One of the first book-length studies to look at these representations of same-sex desire, it was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title in 2005. He teaches courses in Southern literature, modern American fiction, American humor, and contemporary American fiction and drama as well as seminars in William Faulkner, Tennessee Williams, and Stephen Sondheim. For this teaching, Professor Richards received the 2003 International Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Teaching at the University of New Orleans and the 2012 Mary W. Pinschmidt Award at the University of Mary Washington.

Barbara Rico, who holds a doctorate from Yale University, is Professor and Chair of English at Loyola Marymount University; she has taught at LMU since 1989. Her research interests include comparative studies of Renaissance authors and, more recently, work on Nicholasa Mohr, Judith Ortíz Cofer, Esmeralda Santiago and other writers of the Puerto Rican Diaspora. The textbook she co-edited with Sandra Mano of UCLA, *American Mosaic: Multicultural Readings in Context*, is in its third edition. She has presented her work at conferences in the United States (including Puerto Rico) and in Mexico. Her other publications include essays in *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies*

(reprinted in *Latino/a Writing* [Routledge] and *Short Fiction in Theory and Practice*. Transatlantic exchange is a focus of her research and teaching, which have been supported by internal and external grants. She has recently completed a term as a member the National Networking Board of the Lilly Foundation.

Stephanie Rountree earned her Ph.D. in U.S. Literature from Georgia State University in May 2017, and this fall, she will join Auburn University's Department of English as a postdoctoral teaching fellow. Her scholarship on U.S. literature, culture, and media appears in *Carson McCullers in the Twenty-First Century* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), *south: a scholarly journal*, *Mississippi Quarterly*, *Ethos*, and *Word and Text*. She serves as co-editor of *Small-Screen Souths: Region, Identity, and the Cultural Politics of Television* (LSU Press, forthcoming 2017), and she is currently working on a monograph investigating capitalism, corporeality, and citizenship in U.S. literature and history after Emancipation.

Annette Runte: After her graduate studies of German, philosophy and linguistics at the universities of Bonn, Bochum, Paris III, Paris VII and the EHESS, Annette Runte received a French Master's degree and a Ph.D. in German Literature. From 1988 to 1991, she was a postgraduate at the 'Graduiertenkolleg' for Cultural Studies at the University of Siegen, acquiring the *Venia legendi* (Habilitation) for German and Comparative Literature in 1993, under the direction of Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht (Stanford) and K. Ludwig Pfeiffer. From 1994 to 2016, she was a professor at the University of Siegen, but also taught as Visiting Professor at the universities of Hanover, Graz and Rouen (2003-2008). There she was a member of the Research Group 'Centre de Recherches sur l'Autriche et l'Allemagne'. In 2006, she qualified for the title of 'Professeur des universités'. Special interests: German and French Literature from the 19th to the 20th century, Gender Studies, Autobiography, Narratology, Psychoanalysis, Poststructuralism.

Shannon Russell is Associate Professor of English Literature and Department Chair. She specializes in eighteenth and nineteenth century fiction with interests in gender, class, and race, scientific discourse, Victorian technologies, and visual representations in the periodical press. She is Canadian with a B.A. from the University of Western Ontario, an M.A. from Dalhousie University, and a D.Phil from Oxford University where she also held a two-year Post-doctoral Research Fellowship. Prof. Russell has edited novels by Thomas Hardy and Elizabeth Hamilton and has published widely on Charles Dickens, Charlotte Bronte, Wilkie Collins, Elizabeth Gaskell, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Germaine de Stael, George Meredith and Flannery O'Connor. She is currently working on a book project on the transatlantic connections between Charles Dickens and Frederick Douglass. She is also exploring the overlaps between the work of Jane Austen and Mary Shelley, and has an ongoing interest in the evolving representations of Italy and Italians in Victorian writing. Prior to 2017, Prof. Russell was also an editor and writer for the United Nations where she contributed to many publications.

Andrew Rutt is a visual artist, translator, and English composition/creative non-fiction teacher at John Cabot University. Co-author of the university textbook *The UK: Learning the Language, Studying the Culture*. Elena and her husband, Andrew Rutt, are a translating duo and work collaboratively on texts from and into Italian and English.

Emilia Salomone teaches English language and literature at "Liceo Maria Montessori" in Rome. After graduating from La Sapienza University, Rome, she translated into Italian N. Chomsky's *Knowledge of language: its nature, origin and use*. She started teaching high school students in 1984 and has worked as a teacher since then, taking part in several international projects such as *Italy reads*, *eTwinning*, *Read on*, *Acer-European school-net Educational Netbook pilot*, *Comenius*

Multilateral Partnership.

Mariarosaria Savino is currently a professor at De Nicola High School in Naples where she is Head of the Department of Foreign Language and Literature and Project Coordinator. She graduated with honors in English Language and Literature from the University "Orientale" in Naples in 1991. In 1996 she was qualified as a Primary school teacher, followed by qualifications in 2000 and 2002 as a High School teacher. Educational experience includes courses at St. Giles College in London, International House in Newcastle, at the British Council of Naples and at the John Cabot University, Rome. Career highlights, throughout her 21 years of teaching, include experience as tutor and group leader for cultural exchange trips, tutorship in foreign language ministerial projects, responsibility for work/study projects, coordination as training tutor of recent teaching graduates and membership in evaluation committees.

Sarah Schulman is an American novelist, playwright, historian and lesbian rights activist. She is a Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at College of Staten Island (CSI) and a Fellow at the New York Institute for the Humanities.

Melanie Masterton Sherazi just completed a University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship in English at UCLA and will begin teaching at the California Institute of Technology this fall. She is currently writing a cultural history of black American and leftist cultural workers in postwar Rome, and she recently edited and wrote an introduction for the late African American expatriate author William Demby's final novel, *King Comus* (2017). Her chapter analyzing Carson McCullers's posthumous autobiography and Dictaphone sessions appears in *Carson McCullers in the Twenty-First Century* (2016). She has published on William Faulkner in *Mississippi Quarterly* and Ralph Ellison in *MELUS*.

Karen Swan is from the Midlands UK and has been a performer for many years singer songwriter, actor and clown. For several years she worked as a clown doctor (now known in U.K. as giggle doctor) visiting unwell and life limited children and young people in hospital, hospice and institutions, through Theodora Children's Charity. The work formed a connection with the individual allowing a space where they felt comfortable to express themselves again. Connection is at the centre of her work, observation of the lives and behaviour of individuals which make up our human society. She has written and performed many songs, solo and with other artists and written prose, poetry and three short one act plays. Karen has been interested in Carson McCullers since her teens and is thrilled at the opportunity to be at the conference.

Susan B. Walker is professor emerita at the University of South Alabama, where she taught literature and creative writing for thirty-five years. She has served as president of the Alabama Writers Forum, the Alabama State Poetry Society, and the Alabama Writers Conclave and is the editor and publisher of Negative Capability Press. From 2003 to 2012, she was Poet Laureate of Alabama. She has published ten books of poetry, a play, numerous book reviews, and many critical articles. Her book *In the Realm of Rivers: Alabama's Mobile-Tensaw Delta*, with a foreword by Edward O. Wilson, was published by NewSouth Books in 2005.

Glenn Willis is a graduate student at the University of Edinburgh studying 20th century literature and is beginning PhD. work on McCullers's novels in autumn 2017. Glenn is Social Media Coordinator for the Carson McCullers Society.

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