

# Intersections

Literature, Technology, Science



This event is co-sponsored by EGO, LASGO, the Department of English and Journalism, the University Theme Committee, The Visiting Lecturers Committee, The College of Arts and Sciences, the Provost's Office, as well as Digital Commons

2011 EGO / LASGO Conference  
October 21 - 22

Western Illinois University

# Welcome to the 8th Annual EGO/LASGO Conference!

Friday, October 21st:

Q & A with Jackie Orr and Steve Tomasula  
Simpkins 214 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Keynote Address  
Morgan Hall 109 7:00-9:00 pm

Steve Tomasula  
Reading from *VAS: An Opera in Flatland: A Novel*

Steve Tomasula is the author of the novels *The Book of Portraiture* (FC2); *IN & OZ* (Ministry of Whimsy); *VAS: An Opera in Flatland* (University of Chicago), an acclaimed novel of the biotech revolution; and most recently, *TOC: A New-Media Novel* (FC2/University of Alabama).

Jackie Orr,  
"Body Animations (or, Lullaby for Fallujah)"

Jackie Orr is Associate Professor of Sociology at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University and the author of *Panic Diaries: A Genealogy of Panic Disorder* (Duke). Her research focuses on contemporary and feminist theory; critical studies of technology, science and psychiatry; and cultural politics.

Saturday, October 22nd

Registration and Coffee:  
Simpkins Lounge 8:00-8:45 a.m.

Welcome Address:  
Simpkins Lounge 8:45 a.m.

Panel Session I: 9:00-10:20 a.m.

Panel Session II: 10:30-11:50 a.m.

Break for Lunch:  
Simpkins 341 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Panel Session III: 1:00-2:20 p.m.

Panel Session IV: 2:30-3:50 p.m.

Conference Roundtable: 4:00-5:00 p.m.  
Roundtable led by Steve Tomasula and Jackie Orr

Conference Reception:  
Taylor Hall 5:30 p.m.

Awarding of the Sebastian Melmoth Prize for the Best  
Graduate Student Presentation

## Session 1: 9:00 - 10:20 a.m.

### Panel 1: Metaphors of Science, Bioethics, and Race

Chair: Everett Hamner

Room 027

#### "Troping Science in Goethe's *Elective Affinities*"

Steve Long, Western Illinois University

#### "The Convergence of Genetics and Race"

Dee Robinson, Western Illinois University

#### "The Bioethics of Prenatal Genetic Diagnostics"

Aaron Graf, Western Illinois University

#### "Genetic Thrillers: The Late 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Prehistory of Genomic Fiction"

Everett Hamner, Western Illinois University

### Panel 2: New Media Aesthetics

Moderator: Patricia Young

Room 014

#### "Composing for the Body: Narrative, Totality, and the New Media Aesthetics of Steve Tomsaula"

David Banash, Western Illinois University

#### "A Walk on the Digital Sublime: Lawyering Towards a Recursive Urbanism"

Paul Guzzardo, Geddes Institute for Urban Research

#### "Photography and Dorriane Laux"

Bill Thompson, Western Illinois University

### Panel 3: Film and Literatures of the Environment

Chair: Shazia Rahman

Room 327

#### "Riding a Whale through the Glass Ceiling: Gender, Whales, and Culture in Niki Caro's *Whale Rider*"

Ziyad Al-Mutairi, Western Illinois University

#### "Life in the City and the Jungle: Alejo Carpentier's *The Lost Steps*"

Ramona Sayles, Western Illinois University

#### "Science Versus Humanities in Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss*"

Paige Brinkman, Western Illinois University

### Panel 4: Word, Image, and Literacy

Moderator: Magdelyn Helwig

Room 214

#### "Moving Beyond Language to the Imageworld: The Writing and Rhetoric of Images"

Cassidy Little, Western Illinois University

#### "Embodied Literacies, Empowered Bodies: Writing Center Strategies of Resistance and Empowerment"

Emily Schoon, Western Illinois University

#### "The Sadeian Women: Pornography and Politics in the Stories of Mary Gaitskill and A. M. Homes"

Cheron Campbell, Western Illinois University

## Session 2 : 10:30 - 11:50 a.m.

**Panel 1: The Politics of Representation: Black Masculinity in the Works of Herman Melville and George Lippard**

Chair: Timothy Helwig

Room O27

**"I do vonders how that 'ill vork': Creating Race and Class Distinctions through Dialect in George Lippard's *The Quaker City; or, The Monks of Monk Hall*"**

Sarah Murphy, Western Illinois University

**"Stereotypical Representations of Black Masculinity in George Lippard's *The Quaker City*"**

Kirstin Williams, Western Illinois University

**"Paragons of Polarity: Queequeg and Pip as Opposite Ends of the Spectrum of Antebellum Black Masculinity"**

Kevin Rach, Western Illinois University

**"The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 and Class Protest: Sourcing George Lippard's Late Racial Ambivalences"**

Timothy Helwig, Western Illinois University

**Panel 2: The Medium of Comics**

Chair: Christopher Morrow

Room O14

**"Blood in the Gutters: Counter-hegemony in Joe Sacco's *Safe Area Gorazde*"**

Steve Long, Western Illinois University

**"Making New Sense of *Sense and Sensibility*: Literary Adaptation through the Graphic Novel"**

Layton Schroeder, Western Illinois University

**"Un-defining Madness: Genre Confusion and the Fantastic in *Swallow Me Whole*"**

Kelly Budruweit, Western Illinois University

**"'It's about the language, ...right?' Classical Comics' *Henry V*, Medium, and Adaptation"**

Christopher Morrow, Western Illinois University

**Panel 3: The Intersection of Science and Religion**

Chair: John Simmons

Room 327

**"The Intersection of Science and Religion"**

John Simmons, Western Illinois University

**"The Believing Brain"**

Sue Adams, Western Illinois University

**"The Crossroads of Science and Religion Within The Body"**

Shannon Reed, Western Illinois University

**Roundtable discussion with:**

Althea Alton, Western Illinois University

Shannon Reed, Western Illinois University

Shawn Meagher, Western Illinois University

**Panel 4: Human Animals and their "Others"**

Chair: Andrea Spain

Room 214

**"'The Economy of Nature': The Evolutionary Development of Financial Markets in Theodore Dreiser's *The Titan*"**

Jose Fernandez, Northern Illinois University

**"The Rhetoric of New Media Animal and Environmental Activism: Examining Deluca's 'Image Events'"**

Hayley Zertuche, Western Illinois University

**"On Violence and Becoming: Mala's Territorial Art of Survival in Shani Mootoo's *Cereus Blooms at Night*"**

Emily Mutchler, Western Illinois University

## Session 3 : 1:00 - 2:20 p.m.

### Panel 1: Postcolonial and Contemporary Irish Literature and Poetry

Chair: Jannell McConnell Room 027

“‘The Secrets of the Dark Will Be the Truths of the Body’: Situating the Secret in Eavan Boland’s *Domestic Violence*”

Jannell McConnell, Mississippi State University

“Language and Landscape: Irish Nationalism and the Modern Body”

Mark Mossman, Western Illinois University

“The Politics of the Booker: How Two Award Winners Have Changed the Face of British and World Literature”

Marjorie Allison, Western Illinois University

### Panel 2: Alan Moore’s *The Watchmen*

Chair: Christopher Morrow Room 014

“Beyond the Watch of Men”

John Degregorio, Western Illinois University

“Gods, Morals, and Tachyon Particles”

Laura Black, Western Illinois University

“The Line Between Sexuality and Objectification”

Jessica Scadden, Western Illinois University

### Panel 3: Biopolitics and the Inhuman

Chair: Andrea Spain Room 327

“The Commodification of Bodies: International Organ Trade in Manjula Padmanabhan’s *Harvest* (1997)”

Anna Cheng, Western Illinois University

“Woman as Object: The Zombie Female Body”

Melissa Wangall, Western Illinois University

“Razorwire and Bodies of the State: the South African Mirror and Global Apartheid”

Andrea Spain, Mississippi State University

### Panel 4: Technologies, Ethics, and Environments

Moderator: Jacque Wilson-Jordan Room 214

“The Technological Mind”

Michael Palmer, Western Illinois University

“A Nation at Risk. . . Revisited”

Judith Taylor, Western Illinois University

“Beyond the Surface: Ethical Rationale for Encompassing Environmental Sustainability within Museums and Exhibition Designs”

Lauren Sciascia, Western Illinois University

## Session 4 : 2:30 - 3:50 p.m.

### Panel 1: "Escaping the Cult: True Womanhood in Early American Women's Fiction"

Chair: Timothy Helwig Room O27

#### "Three Antebellum Ideologies of Womanhood in Harriet Wilson's *Our Nig*"

Jean Kern, Western Illinois University

#### "Degrees of Submission in the Nineteenth-Century Novel"

Michelle Stevens, Western Illinois University

#### "An Exposé of the Slums in Antebellum New York: A Female Perspective"

Maggie Quist, Western Illinois University

### Panel 2: Out of the Wild and Down on the Farm: Agricultural Science in Thoreau's and Cather's Environmentalism

Chair: Dan Malachuk Room O14

#### "One Regionalism, Two Regions: Midwestern Agriculture as Depicted by Willa Cather and Grant Wood"

Catherine Bodenbender, Western Illinois University

#### "'More Natural' Than Nature: Thoreau's Spiritual and Scientific 'Progress' Through Reversion"

Kelly Budruweit, Western Illinois University

#### "Fierce Strength and Savage Beauty: Femininity and the Land in Willa Cather's *O Pioneers!* and *My Antonia*"

Leah Christensen, Western Illinois University

#### "Thoreau and the Farm"

Dan Malachuk, Western Illinois University

### Panel 3: Representations of Violence and the Writing of Disaster

Co-Chairs: Jessica Temple and Lisa McMurtray Room 327

#### "Violence and Disaster in Southern Poetry"

Jessica Temple, Mississippi State University

#### "The Language of Disaster: Mediating Public and Private Loss in the Poetry of Bob Hicok and Natasha Trethewey"

Lisa McMurtray, Mississippi State University

#### "The Prison Within: Bigger Thomas on the Couch"

Marc Fortuna, Western Illinois University

### Panel 4: Modern and Postmodern Sexualities:

Chair: Bill Thompson Room 214

#### "The Escaped Cock: Male Homoeroticism in D. H. Lawrence's Poetry"

Merrill Cole, Western Illinois University

#### "Immersion, Enjoyment, and Violence: Sadism and Narrative Closure in *American Psycho*."

David Banash, Western Illinois University

## Conference Roundtable: 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Lead by Steve Tomasula and Jackie Orr  
Located in Room 014

## Reception : 5:00 p.m.

Located at Taylor Hall, 125 S. Randolph Street

Awarding of the Sebastian Melmoth Prize to the Best  
Graduate Student Presentation

## New Media Installation

A Walk on the Digital Sublime: ~~Lawyering~~ towards a Recursive Urbanism

"A Walk on the Digital Sublime; Lawyering towards a Recursive Urbanism" bores into a St. Louis Missouri digital street praxis. The praxis "recursive urbanism" uses the street as: 1) an evolving search engine, a tableau you drift through, synthesizing as you move, 2) a platform to assemble networks to critique the network, and 3) a probe into how digital kit edits-us. Videos and graphic tryptic frame a struggle of getting onto the street, and manning way-stations to navigate through a digital fog. This streetscape praxis is now snared in litigation in St. Louis. St. Louis is where Marshal McLuhan did foundational media work. McLuhan anguished that the "privileged diet for the elite" would thwart art as radar. "The installation tracks how a bogus idea of community provoked a lawsuit, and why a St. Louis elite decided to forfeit and obliterate McLuhan's St. Louis legacy. And do it in time to celebrate his 2011 Centennial.

Paul Guzzardo is Fellow at the Geddes Institute for Urban Research. He is a designer and lawyer, based in St. Louis and Buenos Aires. He maps the devolving state of the American public sphere. He's interested in epistemology and where urban designers, creative practitioners and collectors fit, and or don't, in a zoomed out digitized culture. His research is out on the street. His design praxis includes: nightclubs, outdoor multimedia projections, street-front media-labs, street theater, remix concerts, gallery installations and documentary film. He exploits these venues and disciplines to design epistemic gear \_ maps\_ for navigating through this digital minefield.

\*This installation was installed earlier at Culture Lab OnSite Newcastle and will open at Western Illinois University Macomb Illinois.

## **Our Gratitude to Everyone Who Made This Event Possible**

### **English Graduate Organization (EGO)**

Co-Presidents: Melissa Wangall, Maria DeRose  
Secretary: Emily Schoon  
Treasurer: Cassidy Litle  
Graduate Faculty Liaison: Emily Mutchler  
Writing Program Liaison: Kelly Budruweit  
Active EGO members: Laura Black, Jessica Scadden, Layton Schroeder, John Degregario

### **Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Organization (LASGO)**

President: Shannon Reed  
Vice President: Andrea Fleming  
Treasurer: Martin Jezierski  
Interdisciplinary Representative: Kristin Bradley  
LASGO and EGO Faculty Advisor: David Banash, with special thanks to Althea Alton

### **Interdisciplinary English and Arts Society (IDEAS)**

President: Hayley Zertuche  
Vice President: Michelle Stevens  
Treasurer: Steve Long  
Secretary: Melissa Gravert

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## **Our Speakers**

Sue Adams	Shawn Meagher
Marjorie Allison	Christopher Morrow
Ziyad Al-Mutairi	Mark Mossman
Althea Alton	Sarah Murphy
David Banash	Emily Mutchler
Laura Black	Michael Palmer
Catherine Bodenbender	Maggie Quist
Paige Brinkman	Kevin Rach
Kelly Budruweit	Shannon Reed
Cheron Campbell	Shazia Rahman
Anna Cheng	Dee Robinson
Leah Christensen	Ramona Sayles
Merrill Cole	Jessica Scadden
John Degregorio	Emily Schoon
Jose Fernandez	Layton Schroeder
Marc Fortuna	Lauren Sciascia
Aaron Graf	John Simmons
Paul Guzzardo	Andrea Spain
Everett Hamner	Michelle Stevens
Magdelyn Helwig	Judith Taylor
Tim Helwig	Jessica Temple
Jean Kern	Bill Thompson
Cassidy Litle	Melissa Wangall
Steve Long	Kirstin Williams
Dan Malachuk	Jacque Wilson-Jordan
Jannell McConnell	Hayley Zertuche
Lisa McMurtray	

### **Panel Chairs and Moderators**

David Banash	Christopher Morrow
Everett Hamner	Shazia Rahman
Magdelyn Helwig	Andrea Spain
Tim Helwig	Jessica Temple
Jannell McConnell	Bill Thompson
Lisa McMurtray	Jacque Wilson-Jordan