

COLLOQUIUM PROGRAM

12TH ANNUAL CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY  
ENGLISH GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM



GODS & IDOLS:  
(EX)CHANGES  
OF THE SACRED AND THE SANCTIFIED

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*The Concordia Colloquium Committee would like to thank the following for their support and generosity in making this Colloquium possible:*

### COLLOQUIUM COMMITTEE

Alanna Bartolini  
Carousel Calvo  
Kevin Kvas  
Denise Leitão  
Justyna Poray-Wybranowska  
Aubyn Rader  
Shada Sagher

The Concordia University English Department

The Office of the President and Vice-Chancellor  
and Concordia University's Small Grants Program

Dr. Justin Powlowski, The Office of the Vice President,  
Research & Graduate Studies

The Graduate Students Association

The Student Association of Graduates in English

Bonnie Campbell

Beth Crevier

Jill Didur

Sharon Frank

Judith Herz

Manish Sharma

The Numerous Other Volunteers, Panelists, and Moderators

3:30PM—4:00PM

**BREAK**

4:00PM—4:50PM

**SACRED SPACES OUT OF PLACE**

Moderator: *Al Chiuchiarelli*

A Question of Singularity:

Surveillance, Identity, and Cerebral Space in Paul Auster's New York Trilogy

*Courtney Church* (Concordia University)

Gaps, Spaces, and Distances in Anita Desai's *The Museum of Final Journeys*

*Justyna Poray-Wybranowska* (Concordia University)

Google Street View-Topia:

The Arbitrariness of Materiality as a Mode of Data Representation

*Kevin Kvas* (Concordia University)

5:00PM—6:00PM

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY LARISSA LAI**

Introduction: *Cynthia Quarrie*

Asian Canadian "Literary Elites" and Intellectual Property:

The Scandal of Appropriation in the 1990s and 2010s

*Larissa Lai* (University of British Columbia)

6:30PM—MIDNIGHT

**EVENING RECEPTION**

McKibbins Irish Pub (1426 Bishop Street)

9:00AM—10:00AM

**BREAKFAST**

10:00AM—10:30AM

**INTRODUCTORY PROCEEDINGS**

Faculty Address

*Manish Sharma*, English Graduate Program Director

SAGE Welcome

*Aubyn Rader*, SAGE President

10:30AM—11:20AM

**MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY**

Moderator : *Isabelle Johnston*

Germanized Conversion in Cynewulf's *Elene*

*Denise Marques Leitão* (Concordia University)

Female Transvestism in Hagiographies and the *Roman de Silence*

*Eliana Chilakos* (Concordia University)

Sanctioning Ambiguity: Handling a "Quasi-Other"

in the "Noble Tale Betwixt King Arthur and Lucius the Emperor of Rome"

*Farah Daoud* (Concordia University)

11:30AM—12:20PM

**KILLING IN THE NAME OF...**

Moderator: *Megan Fitz-James*

Modern Disenchantment and the Death of the Gods

*Mohamed Ali Tourki* (Université de Montréal)

The Sound of Silence: Trauma and Truth in Achmat Dangor's *Bitter Fruit*

*Rachel Wong* (Simon Fraser University)

Killing Gods: The Quest for Meaning in *Final Fantasy VII*

*Gediminas Dainius Lerner* (Concordia University)

12:30PM—1:30PM

**LUNCH**

1:30PM—2:20PM (2 CONCURRENT PANELS)

**THE CANON**

Moderator: *Robin Graham*

Room: LB 646

New Philosophy / Ancient Authority:

Body Politics and Truth Claims in Defoe's *Journal of the Plague Year*

*Veronica Belafi* (Concordia University)

(+)reason:

The Doubled, Troubled Political Theology of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

*Anthony Oliveira* (University of Toronto)

What is Ahab Without the Whale?:

Idolatry, Bounded Interiority, and Miltonic Influence in *Moby-Dick*

*Alanna Bartolini* (Concordia University)

**(UN)ACCEPTABLE BODIES**

Moderator: *Robert Regier*

Room: LB 649

She is a Closed System:

Grotesque Communities in Neil Jordan's *The Company of Wolves*

*Shada Sagher* (Concordia University)

Conspicuous Absences and Superfluous Presences:

The Affect of the Freakish in Katherine Dunn's *Geek Love*

*Ben Taylor* (Université de Montréal)

Horns and Thorns, Knock-Kneed and Upright:

Joanna Newsom and the Performance of Cuteness in Popular Music

*Hilary Bergen* (Concordia University)

2:30PM—3:20PM

**RELIGION AND IDEOLOGY**

Moderator: *Lee Hannigan*

The Limits of Solidarity:

The Conflict Between Pacifist Ideologies and Anti-Oppression Work

*Selena Middleton* (McMaster University)

Althusser and Foucault:

An Examination of Ideology in Protestant Evangelicalism

*Stacey Park* (University of Toronto)

Ancient Science or Ancient Metaphor?:

Young Earth Creationism and *Genesis 1:1 - 2:3*

*Aubyn Rader* (Concordia University)