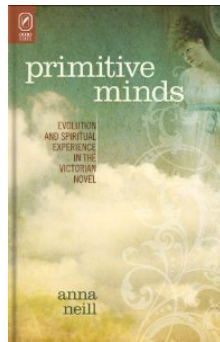




“Unlikely Bedfellows”



Anna Neill



Ohio State Press publicity for Anna Neill’s new monograph begins, “For twenty-first-century veterans of the evolution culture wars, *Primitive Minds: Evolution and Spiritual Experience in the Victorian Novel* . . . makes unlikely bedfellows of two Victorian ‘discoveries’: evolutionary theory and spiritualism.” The copy goes on to note, “Victorian science did much to uncover the physical substratum of mystical or dreamy experience, tracing spiritual states to a lower, reflex, or more evolutionarily primitive stage of consciousness. Yet science’s pursuit of knowledge beyond sense-based evidence uncannily evoked powers associated with this primitive mind: the capacity to link events across space and time, to anticipate the future, to uncover elements of the forgotten past, and to see into the minds of others. Neill does not ask how the Victorians explained away spiritual experience through physiological psychology, but instead explores how physical explanation interacted with dreamy content in Victorian accounts of the mind’s most exotic productions. This synthesis, she argues, was particularly acute in realist fiction, where, despite novelists’ willingness to trace the nervous origins of individual behavior and its social consequences, activity in hidden regions of the mind enabled levels of perception inaccessible to ordinary waking thought. The authors in her study include Charlotte Brontë, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Thomas Hardy.” Neill’s book, somehow written during her years of heavy service as Director of Undergraduate Studies, Associate Chair, and now Chair of KU English -- while simultaneously maintaining Kemper Award-winning teaching prowess -- was released on Wednesday. Congratulations, Anna!

Calendar

R 5 Digital Humanities Seminar, “The Light Commodity of Words: Digitizing the Material Book,” **Jonathan Lamb**, English, 3:30 pm, Hall Center.

Poetry and Hybrid Work Reading and Performance featuring **Jonathan Stalling**, English, University of Oklahoma, and **Benjamin Cartwright** (PhD ‘13), 7:30 pm, International Room, Kansas Union. Sponsored by English MFA Program and East Asian Languages and Cultures.

Eastward Ho!



Jonathan Stalling



Benjamin Cartwright

The focus will be on poetry and East Asia as the first Department of English MFA Visiting Writer Series event of the academic year takes place on Thursday, 6 September, at 7:30 pm in the International Room of the Kansas Union. **Jonathan Stalling**, poet, translator, critic, and an associate professor of English at the University of Oklahoma, will showcase his unique approach to poetry for a KU audience. Stalling is the co-founder and editor of *Chinese Literature Today* magazine and book series. His book, *Yingelishi*, is based upon an English-language phrase book, popular in China, which uses Chinese characters to simulate the sound of English words: Stalling translates those Chinese sounds, creating new poems in English. In performance, he chants them, according to a traditional method of singing; speakers of English and Chinese each hear completely different meanings. He then reads the translations. His presentation will also feature new video poems consisting of one English poem which is also written, via translation and transliteration, in Korean, Japanese, Arabic, and Chinese. **Joe Harrington** notes, “If there is a poetry of the era of globalization, this has got to be it.” Recent KU PhD graduate and current lecturer **Benjamin Cartwright** will also read from his work, *Tea & Gin*. The title itself is an ingenious transliteration of the name of the Chinese city of Tianjin and Cartwright’s poems deal with the foreign concession era there. The event is co-sponsored by East Asian Languages and Cultures.

Publications

Johnson, Kij

Rpt. “Mantis Wives,” *The Best Horror of the Year Volume Five*. Ed Ellen Datlow. San Francisco: Nightshade, 2013. Print.

“The Evolution of Trickster Stories Among the Dogs of North Park After the Change.” *Telling Tales: The Clarion West 30th Anniversary Anthology*. Datlow, Ellen, et al., Seattle: Hydra Press 2013. Print.

McKitterick, Chris

“James Gunn: The Man Who Taught Us All Science Fiction” (biographic essay), *James Gunn’s Ad Astra #2*. July.

“Science Fiction Studies at the University of Kansas” (article), *SFRA Review* 305 (Summer 2013).

“James Gunn: Inspiring the Future” (biographic essay), *LoneStarCon3 Progress Report 4*. August.

Neill, Anna

Primitive Minds: Evolution and Spiritual Experience in the Victorian Novel. Ohio State University Press. 2013.

Presentations

Brown, Creighton

“Ka huri”: Mega-Tourism and the Outsider in *Potiki* and *A Small Place*,” ASLE Conference, 28 May-1 June, Lawrence, KS.

Evans, Stephen F.

“Americans in Paris, Part Deux: The Jazz Age.” University of Kansas Mini College 2013. 3 June.

Graham, Maryemma

“Reading Without Oprah,” University of Kansas Mini College 2013. 5 June.

McKitterick, Chris

ConQuest 44 Writer’s Workshop (instructor), ConQuest Convention, Kansas City, MO. 25 May.

Fiction Reading, ConQuest Convention, Kansas City, MO. 26 May.

Campbell Conference and Awards Ceremony (emcee, presenter, and discussion leader), Lawrence, KS. 13-16 June.

“Science Fiction: Mythologies for a Changing Age,” Science on Tap Series, KU Museum of Natural History, Lawrence, KS. 23 July.

Masinton, Jerry

“How to Read and Write Poetry.” University of Kansas Mini College 2013. 4 June.

Accepted for Publication

Brown, Creighton

“Dracula’s Colonized Tongue Speaks through Fanged Teeth,” *Journal of Dracula Studies*. Fall 2013.

Johnson, Kij

Rpt. “Mantis Wives,” *The Humanity of Monsters*. Ed. Michael Matheson. Chicago: Chizine, forthcoming (Winter 2015). Print.

McKitterick, Chris

“James Gunn: Science Fiction’s Mentor” (biographic essay), 2013 *WorldCon Souvenir Book*. September 2013.

“Combat scenarios between H.G. Wells’ *War of the Worlds* Martians and prehistoric titanoboa, for “Godzilla vs T. Rex” (article), *Discovery Channel Magazine*. September 2013.

Announcements, Notes, & News

• **New Graduate Students:** The Department welcomes the following new M.A. students: **Maryellen Diotte** (B.A. California State University-Fullerton), **Cody Dye** (B.A. University of Missouri-St. Louis), **Melissa Gilstrap** (B.A. University of Missouri-Columbia), **Aron Muci** (B.A. University of Oklahoma), **Charles Smith** (B.A. William Jewell College; M.A. Wake Forest University).

The Department also welcomes the following new M.F.A. students: **Jason Goodvin** (B.A. KU), **Harmony Hanson** (B.A. University of Wisconsin-River Falls), **Cam Lay** (B.A. University of Pennsylvania), **John Quinn** (B.A. Kansas State University), **Tyler Sherman** (B.A. School of the Art Institute of Chicago), **Satarah Wheeler** (B.A., M.A., Missouri State University).

The Department also welcomes the following new Ph.D. Students: **Alyse Bense** (B.A. Washington College; M.A., Pennsylvania State University), **Clare Echterling** (B.A. Truman State University; M.A. KU), **Meghara Eichhorn-Hicks** (B.A. St. Catherine University; M.A., KU), **Scott Jones** (B.A. University of Texas-Austin, M.A. University of Montana), **Meeyoung Kang** (B.A., M.A., Sookmyung Women’s

University), **Tim Lantz** (B.A. Central Michigan University, M.A. Illinois State University); **Adam Mills** (B.A. Missouri State University, M.A. University of Southern Maine), **Angela Murphy** (B.A. University of Missouri-Kansas City, M.A. Northwest Missouri State University), **Kathryn Nygren** (B.A. Wichita State University, M.A. Kansas State University), **Jonathan Patterson** (B.A., M.A., Southern Illinois University-Carbondale), **Kate Russell** (B.A. University of Maine, M.A. Indiana University), **Stefanie Torres** (B.A. St. Edward’s University, M.A. KU); **Meredith Wiggins** (Birmingham Southern College, M.A. University of Alabama).

• **Kij Johnson** has just completed (8/12-8/23) a research fellowship (with travel grant) at The Bakken Museum in Minneapolis. Her recent book, *At the Mouth of the River of Bees*, has been named a finalist for this year’s World Fantasy Award for a collection. Similarly, her story, “Mantis Wives,” has been nominated for a Hugo Award in the short story division. She is also delighted to report that incoming graduate student **Adam Mills** has also been nominated for a Hugo in the Special Work-Professional category (along with Jeff and Ann Vandermeer) for work on the *Weird Fantasy Review* website.

• **Stephanie Scurto** reports that “English graduate student **Creighton Brown** has been named the **2013 Sanders Scholar** by the KU Libraries. With John Stratton serving as his supervisor and mentor, Creighton will be responsible for providing instructional assistance and expertise for the KU Libraries Center for Undergraduate Initiatives and Engagement. More specifically, he will provide instruction for a variety of KU for-credit courses, including English 101 and 102, First-Year Seminars, PRE 101, and Honors courses. Emphasis will initially be placed on teaching the English courses in contribution to the libraries’ overall support of the First- and Second-Year English (FSE) Program.”

KU and Regional Events

• **Bold Aspirations Visitor and Lecture Series**, “Towards a Transparent Earth: Subsurface Flow and Transport Tomography,” Akhil Datta-Gupta, Texas A&M University, 5 September, 4:00 pm, Bruckmiller Room, Adams Alumni Center.

• **Reading and Lecture**, “A Chicana’s Life in Literature,” **Norma Cantú**, English/Latina/o Studies, UMKC, 5 September, 6:30 pm, Central Library, Kansas City, MO.

• **New Faculty Workshop**, “Building a Teaching Portfolio,” Nathan Wood, History; Amy Rossomondo, Spanish & Portuguese, 6 September, 12:00-1:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Peace, War & Global Change Seminar**, “Vietminh Artists Under Fire: Poster Making in the Field,” Hal Wert, History/History of Art, Kansas City Art Institute, 6 September, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

Fellowships, Contests, Awards, Scholarships, Etc. (Posted)

• **College Language Association Creative Writing Contest and Margaret Walker Memorial Prizes in Creative Writing**, poetry, short story, play. Deadline: 15 January 2014.

• **2014 College Language Association Carol Mills Young Study Abroad Scholarship**, open to any college student at a CLA University. Deadline: 7 February 2014.