



## H.O.P.E Recognition, Novella Publication Reveal Variety and Depth of McKitterick's Contributions



Chris McKitterick

Lecturer **Chris McKitterick** is best known in the English Department as the **Director of the Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction**. Though Professor Emeritus **Jim Gunn** remains the face of that branch of the English Department, McKitterick is its power source, energetically representing and promoting the Center regionally and nationally. Again this year, he was the organizer and the driving force behind the

Center's summer science fiction institutes and workshops as well as its annual prestigious Campbell Conference. He also plays an indispensable part in events like ConQuest KC (see "Presentations") and is frequently interviewed by local and national media on speculative fiction topics. This month, though, his other talents and contributions to the Department and the University have been and are on display. McKitterick teaches several classes per year and routinely earns high praise from his students. This year, the senior class nominated him for the H.O.P.E. (Honor for Outstanding Progressive Educator) Award, the only KU award for teaching excellence bestowed exclusively by students. McKitterick was selected as one of three finalists for the H.O.P.E. and was recognized for that distinction at halftime of the Iowa State-KU football game on 3 November. Furthermore, though his appointment does not include a research or creative component, McKitterick is an active science fiction writer, known for his debut novel, *Transcendence* (2010) and numerous short works in sci-fi journals and magazines. Now, he has published a novella, "Ashes of Exploding Suns, Monuments to Dust," in the November/December 2018 issue of *Analog*. The journal is touting McKitterick's piece as an "epic space opera with a very big idea." Congratulations on all your many achievements, Chris! (And let's remember: he does it all in a kilt.)

### Publications

#### Fowler, Doreen

"Death, Denial, and the Black Double: Reading Race in Flannery O'Connor's Fiction," *Mississippi Quarterly* 69.3 (Summer 2016; published Fall 2018). 303-325.

#### Harrington, Joseph

"Ring the Changes Right: A Review of Geoffrey Gatza's *A Dog Lost in the Brick City of Outlawed Trees*." *Tupelo Quarterly* Nov. 2018. <http://www.tupeloquarterly.com/ringing-the-changes-right-a-review-of-geoffrey-gatzas-a-dog-lost-in-the-brick-city-of-outlawed-trees/>

#### Kaminski, Megan

*Each Acre* (chapbook). Ottawa: above/ground press. 2018.

#### McKitterick, Christopher

"Ashes of Exploding Suns, Monuments to Dust" (novella), *Analog Science Fiction & Fact*, Nov/Dec 2018.

### Presentations

#### Brown, Rachel

"'Nowhere is it Placid': Turbulent Discourse in the Feminist West," Western Literature Association Conference, St. Louis, MO, 26 October.

#### Chakraborty, Arnab

"BBIP (The Black Book Interactive Project): Methods, Applications, Refinements, and Hurdles," African American History, Culture and Digital Humanities 2018 Conference (AADAHum), University of Maryland, College, Park, MD. 19 October (see "Announcements")

#### Johnson, Kij

Invited Guest. Utopiales, Nantes (France), 1-4 November (see "Announcements")

#### McKitterick, Christopher

"The Power of Narrative," writing workshop for NPR writers, 15 May, KCUR offices, University of Missouri, Kansas City, 15 May.

"All About the Center for the Study of Science Fiction," Kansas City Science Fiction & Fantasy Annual Meeting, The Writer's Place, Kansas City, MO, 19 May.

Presentations and table talks, as well as benefit auction emcee, ConQuest KC convention, Kansas City, MO. 25-27 May.

Reading, "Chris Learns to Fly" (creative nonfiction). Science Fiction Summer Workshops, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 21 June.

Organizer, discussion facilitator, emcee, and awards presenter, Campbell Conference and Awards Ceremony, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 22-24 June.

Featured speaker, Lawrence Public Library's "Great American Read: Other Worlds" Capitol Federal Building, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 16 October.

### Calendar

**M 12 Mercedes Lucero**, RDP, 10:00 am, 3025 Wescoe (Graham, Kaminski, Warrior).

**W 14 Alisa Russell**, RDP, 9 am, 3025 Wescoe (Devitt, Grund, Reiff).

#### Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Workshops,

"Colored Pencils in the Archive: A Visual-Textual Encounter in the American West," **Rachel Brown**, English, 12:00-1:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room. Lunch provided. RSVP by 11/7 to [hallcenter@ku.edu](mailto:hallcenter@ku.edu).

**M 19 Humanities Lecture Series**, "An Evening with Neil Gaiman," 7:30 pm, Lied Center.

## *Announcements, Notes, & News*

● **Darren Canady** is directing Ad Astra Theatre Ensemble's production of *The Wild Party*, by George C. Wolfe and Michael John LaChiusa, 9-10, 15-17 November, 7:30 pm, 11, 18 November, 2:00 pm, Jayhawk Theatre, 720 S.W. Jackson St., Topeka, KS.

● As an invited guest at Utopiales (see "Presentations"), **Kij Johnson** participated in four panel discussions and numerous signing events. Utopiales is the premier European science fiction and fantasy festival, held annually in and partly sponsored by the city of Nantes, France. It draws about 90,000 attendees. Sections of all the talks are posted on YouTube.

● **Books for Donations Event** to benefit the **United Way of Douglas County**. The KU Libraries United Way Committee will be selling gently used books donated by libraries faculty and staff, 13-14 November, 11:00 am-3:00 pm, Watson 3<sup>rd</sup> floor lobby. Hardbacks: \$3; Trade Paperbacks & Audiobooks: \$2; Mass Market Paperbacks: \$1. For further information, contact **Sherri Brown**: [sherri.brown@ku.edu](mailto:sherri.brown@ku.edu).

● PhD student **Arnab Chakraborty's** presentation to AADAHum (see "Presentations") was undertaken in his capacity as Project Manager for HBW's Black Book Interactive Project. The conference theme was "Intentionally Digital, Intentionally Black" and the presentation was part of a panel titled "Expanding the Narrative: Intersections of Black Studies and Digital Humanities." His fellow panelists were Marilyn Miller Thomas-Houston (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and Tyechia Lynn Thompson (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.)

## *KU and Regional Events*

● **Place, Race, and Space Seminar**, "Exploring the African American Experience Collection in the Kenneth Spencer Research Library," Deborah Dandridge, Spencer Research Library, 12 November, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

● **Resident Humanities Fellows**, "On the Edge of the Wild: Representations of the Montaña Region of Peru before the Rubber Boom," Ximena Sevilla, Environmental History/Latin American History, 13 November, 12:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

● **Museum Studies Speakers Series**, Devon Akmon, Arab American National Museum, 14 November, 1:30 pm, Malott Room, Kansas Union.

● **Humanities Grant Development Workshop Series**, "Student Coaching Session," 16 November, 12:00-1:00 pm, Hall Center.

● **Digital Humanities Seminar**, "Data Visualization and Storytelling: Revealing the Hidden Stories in the Spencer Museum of Art Collection," James R. Miller, Engineering; Robert Hickerson, SMA, 19 November, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.