



The 2017-2018 American/British Lecture

Given the establishment of the Melville Distinguished Professorship of Nineteenth-Century American Literature, it seemed fitting for the KU English Department to bring a nineteenth-century Americanist to campus this year to deliver the **2017-2018 American/British Lecture**. Melville Professor **Randall Fuller** will introduce University of Illinois Conrad Humanities Scholar and Associate Professor of English **Christopher Freeburg** whose topic for the 11 April presentation will be “Returning to the Slave’s Song.” The lecture will take place at 7:00 pm in Alderson Auditorium of the Kansas Union. Freeburg is the author of *Melville and the Idea of Blackness* (Cambridge UP, 2012) and, most recently, *Black Aesthetics and the Interior Life* (U of Virginia P, 2017). Lecture publicity notes that he is “currently completing a book titled *Slavery: Art and Counterlife*, which focuses on slave texts across a variety of media and how scholars make sense of them.” Freeburg has published widely on his research interests which, along with American and African American Literature generally, include *The Idea of Black Culture*; *The American Novel after 1850*; *Slavery in the Atlantic World*; and *Media Aesthetics*. He has been invited to submit essays on “Melville and Black Performance” and “Douglass, Delaney, and the 19th Century Public Sphere” for upcoming Cambridge Press publications. [This event was originally scheduled for 3 October 2017, but was postponed.]



Christopher Freeburg

Jody Shipka Visit

UMBC Associate Professor of English **Jody Shipka** will be a guest of KU English next week. Shipka, a leader in the field of multimodal literacy and pedagogy, will give a lecture entitled “Experimental Makings: On Composing Not Knowing” on Monday, 2 April, at 4:00 pm in the Pine Room of the Kansas Union. She will also lead a workshop entitled “Evocative Objects: Re-imagining the Possibilities of Material Objects and Multimodal Composing” on Tuesday, 3 April, from 1:30-4:30 pm in the Learning Studio Group Room (201) in Anschutz Library. Shipka is the author of the highly influential *Toward a Composition Made Whole* (2011). Her work has appeared in virtually all of the prestigious journals devoted to rhetoric and composition scholarship. She also serves on the editorial board for a number of book presses and series including *Writing Research, Pedagogy and Policy* and *Computers and Composition Digital Press*. She is also the Special Topics Editor for the journal *Composition Forum*. Her current book project is entitled *To Honor, Rival and Revise: On the Process of Composing Other People’s Lives*. **Anyone wishing to register for the workshop should contact Frank Farmer by the end of Friday, 30 March, at farmerf@ku.edu.**



Jody Shipka

Calendar

S 31 Freely Stated: KU Graduate Creative Writers Reading featuring **Pete Fey, Lesley Wheeler, Divya Radhika Bhalla, Derek Graf, and Katherine DuBois**, 3:00 pm, Sunrise Coffee, 1501 Learned.

M 2 Leighann Dicks, PhD Exam, 12:00 pm, 3001A Wescoe (*Devitt, Farmer, Reiff, Halegoua, Childers*).

Medieval & Early Modern Seminar, “Utility Writing and the Development of Literary Culture in Medieval England,” **Jocelyn Wogan-Browne**, English, Fordham University, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

Guest Lecture, “Experimental Makings: On Composing Not Knowing,” **Jody Shipka**, English, University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), 4:00-5:30 pm, Pine Room, Kansas Union. Sponsored by the First and Second Year English Program

T 3 Jason Baltazar, MFA Defense, 10:00 am, 3025 Wescoe (*Johnson, McKitterick, Moriarty*).

Voting Department Meeting, 4:00 pm, 4051 Wescoe.

Guest Workshop, “Evocative Objects Workshop: Re-imagining the Possibilities of Material Objects and Multimodal Composing,” **Jody Shipka**, English, UMBC, 1:30-4:30 pm, Anschutz 201

Book Talk & Signing by **Danez Smith**, poet/performer/playwright/teaching artist/host, 7:00 pm, Liberty Hall. Co-sponsored by English.

T 10 Poetry Reading & Signing by **Joseph Harrington**, English, 4:30-6:00 pm, Jayhawk Ink Lounge, Kansas Union, Level 2.

W 11 The 2017-2018 American/British Lecture, “Returning to the Slave’s Song,” **Christopher Freeburg**, English, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 7:00 pm, Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union.

R 12 Shakespeare & London: Exploring Spencer Research Library’s Special Collections, presentation featuring KU English’s **David Bergeron** and **Jonathan Lamb** talking about their new monographs, 3:00 presentation, 4:00 reception and conversation, North Gallery, Spencer Research Library.

F 13 SAGE Meeting, 4:00 pm, 4076 Wescoe

Presentations

Herrmann, Jacob

“Tides of Fortune: Identity Formation in Shakespeare’s *Pericles* and Gower’s *Apollonius of Tyre*,” Renaissance Society of America, New Orleans, LA, 22 March.

Announcements, Notes, & News

● **Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities: Digital Jumpstart Workshops:** IDRH will host its annual Digital Jumpstart Workshops on 5-6 April in Watson Library. Department of English presenters include **Jonathan Lamb, Whitney Sperrazza, and Laura Mielke**. For further information and to register for one or more sessions go to: <http://idrh.ku.edu/digital-jumpstart-workshops-2018>.

KU and Regional Events

● **University Theatre** presents *Perfect Arrangement*, by Topher Payne, 31 March, 5-8 April, 7:30 pm, 7-8 April, 2:30 pm, Inge Theatre, Murphy Hall.

● **Digital Humanities Seminar**, “Collecting, Annotating, and Analyzing a Second Language Acquisition Corpus,” Nina Vyatkina, Germanic Languages and Literatures, 4 April, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

● **Nature & Culture Seminar**, “The Sahnish (Arikara) Ethnobotany,” Kelly Kindscher, Environmental Studies/Kansas Biological Survey, 6 April, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

● **Place, Race, and Space Seminar**, “Crossing into Peonage: Black Rural Workers and Racial ‘Dead Lines’ in the Missouri Bootheel,” Heidi Dodson, Public History and Digital Humanities, Jackson Center for Saving and Making History, 9 April, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

● **Gender Seminar**, “Domesticating Democracy,” Susan H. Ellison, Anthropology, Wellesley College, 12 April, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

● **The Urban Experience Seminar**, “Surveillance vs. Welfare: How Trends in Social Spending Elicit Black Mobilization,” Cassandra Osei, School of Public Affairs and Administration, 12 April, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

Calls for Papers, Conferences, Symposia, Etc. (Posted)

● **FSE Project Proposals** for 2018-2019. All current GTAs are invited to apply. Deadline: 9 April.

● **2018 Midwest Modern Language Association Conference**, “Consuming Cultures,” 15-18 November, Kansas City, MO. Deadline: 5 April.

● **The Orphan Train: An Interdisciplinary Colloquium**, 2-3 October, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, NE. Deadline: 1 May.

● **Worlding SF: Building, Inhabiting, and Understanding Science Fiction Universes**, 6-8 December, University of Graz, Austria. Deadline: 15 April.

● **Science Fictions, Popular Cultures**, part of HawaiiCon, 13-16 September, Big Island, HI. Deadline: Rolling.



Danez Smith

on his website: <http://www.danezsmithpoet.com/bio-encore/>. His appearance is co-sponsored by the Department of English.

Danez Smith is the last of a series of poets to visit KU this semester as a guest of The Commons. “A Black, queer, poz writer and performer” from St. Paul, MN, “they are the author of *Don’t Call Us Dead* (2017), a finalist for the National Book Award.” Smith will present at Liberty Hall on Tuesday, 3 April, at 7:00 pm. More information about Smith and his work can be found