



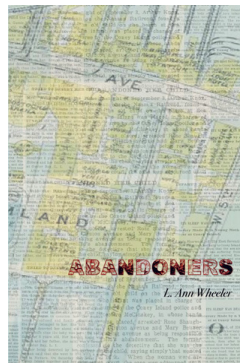
## Abandoners



L. Ann Wheeler

KU English PhD student **Lesley Ann Wheeler** has published her first book, *Abandoners* (The Operating System, December 2018). Press publicity describes the work as “part non-fiction, part poetry, and part graphic novel.” It “exists at the intersection of women’s lives in transition and the relentless fantasy of Coney Island.” The book had its genesis when Wheeler read accounts of babies who were abandoned at Coney Island in the early twentieth century and since. It combines archival research with “imaginative rendering,” in **Megan Kaminski’s** words. The project evolved over a number of years and was buoyed as Wheeler

explored working in text and visual modes rather than exclusively in poetry: “I realized that I did not have to groom my natural inclinations to fit the forms of poetry that I had read and been taught. It felt like a true representation of myself as a writer.” *Abandoners* also became a journey of self-discovery as Wheeler looked inward to identify with the abused women she encountered in her research. Her own experiences found their way into the work producing a “catharsis . . . spurred on by the strength and understanding I felt by simply reading the stories of others.” Not all of the book deals literally with abandonment, but Wheeler notes that she decided to title the book as she did because the word, in its various forms, “seemed to shimmer when held up to the themes that run throughout. Abandoning as a way of shedding what is not needed, abandoning as hopelessness, as a choice, or as something that happens to you.” Wheeler’s chapbook, *tiny, tiny flashlights*, was also published on 2 January – but only fleetingly. RlySrsLit, the publisher, posts “disappearing chapbooks” through Instagram for 96 hours. Nevertheless, Lesley slyly discloses she has screenshots if anyone is interested! Congratulations, Lesley!



## Publications

### Fischer, Iris

“The Genius of A House: Grey Towers as Nineteenth-Century Stage for Twentieth-Century Conservationism.” *Performing Dream Homes: Theater and the Spatial Politics of the Domestic Sphere*. Edited by Emily Klein, Jennifer-Scott Mobley, and Jill Stevenson. Palgrave Macmillan, 2019.

### Mielke, Laura L.

“Native American Presence.” *Hawthorne in Context*, edited by Monika Elbert, Cambridge University Press, 2018, pp. 46-56.

### Wheeler, L. Ann

*Abandoners* (book). The Operating System. 2019.

*tiny, tiny flashlights* (disappearing chapbook). Instagram. RlySrsLit. January, 2019.

## Accepted for Publication

### Fowler, Doreen

“Black Scapegoating and White Redemption: Reconsidering Race in Flannery O’Connor,” *Flannery O’Connor Review*, in press.

## HBW News

**Morgan McComb** writes with information about some upcoming HBW events: “**The Project on the History of Black Writing** will be curating and displaying an exhibit to mark our 35th anniversary as a research unit. The exhibit is called “**Researching While Black: The Project on**

## Calendar

**T5 Job Presentation**, fourth candidate for an assistant professorship in rhetoric and composition, 4:00 pm, Centennial Room, Kansas Union. Reception follows. (See separate publicity for further details.)

**Voting Department/Senior Staff Meeting**, 4:00 pm, 4051 Wescoe.

**Book Talk & Signing** by **Safia Elhillo** and **Fatimah Asghar**, poets and activists, 7:00 pm, Liberty Hall.

**R 7 Humanities Lecture Series**, “Political Optimism in the Age of Trump,” **Walter Mosley**, novelist and social commentator, 7:30 pm, Ballroom, Kansas Union.

**F 8 Public Conversation Session** with **Walter Mosley**, 9:30 am, Hall Center Conference Hall.

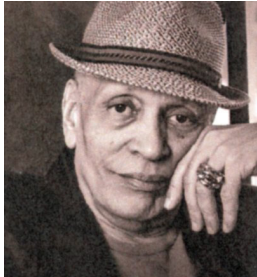
**Adam Mills**, PhD Defense, 1:00 pm, 3001A Wescoe (Conrad, Johnson, Moriarty, Rowland, Jacobson)

**M 11 Betty Bunce Multicultural Lecture**, “Language Differences: A Help or Hindrance for Teaching Poor Children to Read,” Julie Washington, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Georgia State University, 5:00 pm, Price Auditorium, Price Computing Center.

**the History of Black Writing at 35.** The exhibit will be displayed in the Student Union Gallery from February 18th to March 1st. We will be hosting a reception for the exhibit Wednesday, February 20th, from 5:00 -7:00 pm, and everyone is invited."

## Announcements, Notes, & News

• Several visiting writers not sponsored by the English Department will enliven Lawrence and KU's literary scene during the coming week. The Hall Center's **Humanities Lecture Series** welcomes novelist and social commentator **Walter Mosley** who will speak on the subject "Political Optimism in the Age of Trump" at 7:30 pm on 7 February in the Kansas Memorial Union Ballroom. Mosley, perhaps best known for his Easy Rawlins detective series was recently named the first African-American "Grand Master" by the Mystery Writers of America. Poets and activists **Fatimah Asghar** and **Safia Elhillo** will share the stage at Liberty Hall on Tuesday, 5 February, at 7:00 pm. Publicity for the event notes that "this event connects to themes of making art as a form of activism, immigration, identity, and celebrating roots deeper than one country's borders can contain."



Walter Mosley



Fatimah Asghar



Safia Elhillo

They appear in conjunction with the study of 2018-2019's KU Common Book, *Create Dangerously, the Immigrant Artist at Work*, by Edwidge Danticat.

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• The Chair has tentatively scheduled six **Voting Department** meetings this semester. Following a Voting Department/Senior Staff meeting on **5 February**, please plan for voting department meetings on **19 February**, **5 March**, **26 March**, **23 April**, and **7 May**. All meetings will be at 4:00 pm in 4051 Wescoe. If necessary, there will be a final meeting on **14 May** (during Finals Week) to conclude academic year business.

• The Provost has appointed **Maryemma Graham** as co-chair of the "reimagine" subcommittee of the new **Graduate Studies Advisory Committee**. A "refresh" subcommittee will "focus on strategies to further strengthen existing graduate studies structures," while the "reimagine" subcommittee will consider "new possible structures."

## KU and Regional Events

• **CTE Workshop**, "Revitalizing Your Teaching with Course Transformation," with Krzysztof Kuczera (Chemistry/Molecular Biosciences), Carl Luchies (Mechanical Engineering), and Margaret Marco (Music), 7 February, 12:30-1:30 pm, 135 Budig Hall.

• **Gender Seminar**, "Contract Bondage in Japan's Adult Video Industry," Akiko Takeyama, WGSS and Anthropology, 7 February, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Nature & Culture Seminar**, "Monarch Butterflies: Past, Present and Future," Chip Taylor, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, 8 February, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Place, Race, and Space Seminar**, "Afro-Latinx Identity Development," Veronica Rodriguez-Mendez, Office of Multicultural Affairs, 11 February, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Humanities Grant Development Workshop Series**, "Graduate Student Grant Coaching," for graduate students, 14 February, 12:00-1:00 pm, Hall Center. Registration required.

• **Wunsch New Music Festival**, lectures by young non-KU composers followed by performances by KU School of Music artists, 13 February, 12:00-2:30 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall; 13 February, 7:30 pm, Swarthout Recital Hall, Murphy Hall; 14 February, 7:30 pm, Cider Gallery, 810 Pennsylvania St.

• **The Urban Experience Seminar**, "Implications of the Three Revolutions of Transportation for Urban Life," Bradley Lane, Public Administration, 14 February, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

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

• **Fourth Annual International Gender and Sexuality Studies Conference**, 3-5 October, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK. Deadline: 10 May.

• **The Central Dissent: A Journal on Gender and Sexuality**, scholarly reviews, academic research, fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, prose, and art accepted. Theme for issue: "Sexuality in a Global World." Deadline: 15 March.

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

• **Lyle Olsen Graduate Essay Prize**, Sport Literature Association Conference, 19-22 June, University of Limoges (Nouvelle-Aquitaine), France. Deadline: 7 April.

• **Hall Center Applied Humanities Boot Camp**, 20-24 May. Application deadline: 18 March.

• **Hall Center Applied Humanities Summer Fellowships**, 10-week, 30-hour fellowships. Application deadline: 4 March.