



## Science, Technology, and Irish Modernism

Was the Irish Renaissance anti-science and technology? It has become traditional to think so. However, Professor **Kathryn Conrad**, two co-editors, and an impressive group of Irish studies scholars have attempted to set the record straight (or at least provide some balance) in a new collection of essays entitled *Science, Technology, and Irish Modernism* (Syracuse UP, 2019). Press publicity asserts that *STIM* “challenge[s] the stereotype that Irish literature has been unconcerned with scientific and technological change. The collection spotlights authors ranging from James Joyce, Elizabeth Bowen, Flann O’Brien, and Samuel Beckett to less-studied writers like Emily Lawless, John Eglinton, Denis Johnston, and Lennox Robinson,” establishing the “far-reaching scope and complexity



Kathryn Conrad

of Irish writers’ engagement with science and technology.” The result, according to one press reader, is a “field-defining and field-defying collection, indispensable to both Irish studies and modernist studies.” Conrad notes that her “interest in science and technology in Ireland emerged from my work on the politics of surveillance in contemporary Northern Ireland. Then I team-taught a class on 19th-c Irish and Scottish literature with **Ann Rowland**, and all of my thoughts about contemporary technology came alive in a new way in relation to those texts, particularly *Dracula*. As I began



to work on my monograph on 19th- and 20th-century Irish literature and technology, I found a number of scholars with one-off articles or initial forays into conversations about science, technology, and Irish modernism, and decided that there was an opportunity to direct the conversation in what was likely to be a growing field. I enlisted co-editors, invited some contributions, and put out a general call to capture the range of interest, and we were overwhelmed with the response; we could have put together a book twice as large with just the proposals we received from that initial call for papers.” A second press reader predicts that *Science, Technology, and Irish Modernism* “will become a go-to resource for interested students and for scholars wishing to launch new inquiries” into this previously under-scrutinized phenomenon. Congratulations, Katie!

## Publications

**Conrad, Kathryn**

Co-editor (with C  il  n Parsons and Julie McCormick Weng), *Science, Technology, and Irish Modernism*. Syracuse University Press. 2019.

## Calendar

- T 24 Voting Department Meeting**, 4:00 pm, 4051 Wescoe.
- W 25 Kenneth A. Spencer Lecture** featuring **Jonny Sun**, author and illustrator, MIT, 7:00 pm, Liberty Hall.
- F 27 Colonialism Seminar**, “Becoming Black: Representing the Work of Mental Colonization in American Literature,” **Maude Hines**, English, Portland State University, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room. Co-sponsored by the Department of English.
- T 1 Department of English Full Professors Meeting**, to discuss faculty rank advancements, 4:00 pm, 4051 Wescoe.
- Humanities Lecture Series**, “Sovereignty of the Soul: Centering the Voices of Native Women,” **Sarah Deer**, Public Affairs and Administration/WGSS, 7:30 pm, The Commons.
- W 2 KU Digital Humanities Forum Workshop**, “Digital Literacy and Community Engagement: Building a Public Humanities Praxis,” **Julian C. Chambliss**, English, Michigan State University, 3:30-5:30 pm, Watson Library, Room 455. Participation is limited. Register at <https://idrh.ku.edu/dhforum2019/workshop-digital-literacy>.
- Richard W. Gunn Memorial Lecture** featuring poet **Sherwin Bitsui**, English, Northern Arizona University, 7:00 pm, The Commons, Spooner Hall.
- R 3 KU Common Book Keynote Lecture**, “An Evening with Kiese Laymon,” **Kiese Laymon**, English, University of Mississippi, celebrated author and contributor to the 2019-2020 KU Common Book, *Tales of Two Americas: Stories of Inequality in a Divided Nation*, 7:00 pm, Lied Center.
- F 4 KU Digital Humanities Forum** keynote address, “Mapping the Black Imaginary: Race, Space, and Power,” **Julian C. Chambliss**, English, Michigan State University, 9:00 am, Burge Union.

## Presentations

### Burdge, Alexander

“Allegory and Incarnation in Chaucer’s ‘The Man of Law’s Tale’”  
Mid-America Medieval Association (MAMA) Conference, UMKC,  
Kansas City, MO, 14 September.

### Schieberle, Misty

“‘The body is withynne the toumbe’: Uncovering the Purpose for  
Hoccleve’s Glossary” Mid-America Medieval Association  
(MAMA) Conference, UMKC, Kansas City, MO, 14 September.

### Tanner, Suzanne

“Uncovering the Textual History of Malory’s *Morte d’Arthur*: Caxton,  
Winchester, and Structural Unity in Early Prose Romance” Mid-  
America Medieval Association (MAMA) Conference, UMKC,  
Kansas City, MO, 14 September.

### Xin, Wen

“A Diachronic Study of Metadiscourse in English Language Studies,”  
Studies in the History of the English Language Conference (SHEL  
11), University of Indiana, Bloomington, IN, May, 2019.

## KU and Regional Events

● **KU Suffrage Anniversary Launch Event**, panel with Jinx Broussard, LSU; Candi Carter Olson, Utah State; and Teri Finneman, University of Kansas will discuss the history of the suffrage movement and voting issues that remain today, 24 September, 7:00-8:30 pm, Dole Institute of Politics.

● **Byron Caldwell Smith Book Awards**, presentation and remarks from Elizabeth Esch, American Studies, author of *The Color Line and the Assembly Line: Managing Race in the Ford Empire*, and **Thomas Fox Averill** (KU English MA ’74), English, Washburn University, author of *Found Documents from the Life of Nell Johnson Doerr: A Novel*, 25 September, 5:30 pm, Hall Center for the Humanities. Reception and book signing follows.

● **Graduate Student Introduction to Grant Development Workshops**, brown bag, Part 1, 26 September, 12:00-1:00 pm, Hall Center.

● **University Theatre** presents *The Christians*, by Lucas Hnath, 27-28 September, 4-5 October, 7:30 pm, 29 September, 6 October, 2:30 pm, Crafton-Preyer Theatre, Murphy Hall.

● **CTE Workshop**, “It’s Easy to Complain About Student Writing. What Are We Going to Do About It?” with Brianna Hyslop, Writing Center, and Doug Ward, CTE/Journalism, 30 September, 12:00-1:00 pm, 135 Budig.

● **The 2019 University of Kansas Digital Humanities Forum**, “Bodies/Justice/Futures,” and related workshops will be held at the Burge Union and various other sites around the KU campus from 10/2-10/5. Professor **Julian C. Chambliss**, English, Michigan State University, is offering a workshop and delivering one of the keynote addresses for the forum (see “Calendar”). Other English Studies scholars will also present, including KU English PhD student **Arnab Chakraborty**, Professor **Kenton Ramsby**, UT-Arlington (PhD ’15), and Lehigh University English professor **Amardeep Singh**. But many of the other presentations by scholars across the humanities may be of interest to English Department members. Registration for the conference is free and open to all who are interested: <https://idrh.ku.edu/dhforum2019/registration>. Registration for the workshops is separate.

● **CTE Workshop**, “Doing Group Work Online: Yes, You Can,” featuring a panel of instructors from Engineering, Religious Studies, and Psychology, 3 October, 12:00-1:00 pm, 135 Budig.

● **Nature & Culture Seminar**, “When Prairie Meets Genome: Crafting Care, Knowledge and Justice at the Horizon’s Edge,” Jenny Reardon, Sociology, UC Santa Cruz, 4 October, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

## Announcements, Notes, & News

● Versatile creative artist **Jonny Sun** (sometimes stylized as ‘jomny sun’) will deliver this year’s **Kenneth Spencer Lecture**, sponsored annually by The Commons. Sun will speak at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, September 25, at Liberty Hall. Sun is a novelist, playwright, screenwriter (for film and television), artist, and illustrator. In his spare time, he is a doctoral student at MIT, studying social media, virtual place, and online community. He has earned recognition as one of *Time Magazine’s* 25 Most Influential People on the Internet in 2017 and *Forbes Magazine’s* 30 Under 30 Class of 2019. Sun is a 2019 TED Talks speaker.



Jonny Sun

● Professor Emeritus **James Gunn** is featured in the cover story of the Fall 2019 issue of *Lawrence Magazine*, “The Aliens of James Gunn.”

● **The Office of the Provost** solicits annually nominations and self-nominations to fill search committees for a **Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies** (a national search) and a **Vice Provost for Graduate Studies** (an internal search). Deadline: 1 October.

● The Office of First-Year Experience is currently accepting proposals for Fall 2020 First-Year Seminars. Deadline: 24 October.

● **Misty Schieberle** provides some context for the papers delivered by **Alex Burdge** and **Suzanne Tanner** at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual MAMA Conference at UMKC on 9/14: “Alex and Suzanne presented papers based on their outstanding final projects for my Spring 2019 graduate course on the Literature of England to 1500. Additionally, I am delighted to report that Alex won the **Jim Falls Paper Prize** (named in honor of a UMKC professor emeritus widely acknowledged as the “father of MAMA”), which is awarded annually to the best paper delivered by a graduate student.

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

● **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Gordon Parks Celebration**, “50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Film *The Learning Tree*,” featuring several original cast members, 3-5 October, Gordon Parks Museum, Fort Scott, KS.

● **2019 Nimrod Conference for Readers and Writers**, 18-20 October, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK.

● **The Kansas/Missouri Chapter of The Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators** presents its fall conference, “The Middle of the Map,” 1-3 November. Among the authors and illustrators: **Giselle Anatol**. BEST Conference Center, University of Kansas Edwards Campus, Overland Park, KS. Full details and online registration at <http://ksmo.scbwi.org>.