

Crossroads and Transgressions: Cormac McCarthy Between Worlds

July 7-9, 2016

John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies
Room 340

Thursday, July 7

12:00-12:45 Registration

12:45-13:00 Welcome and Introduction

13:00-13:15 Introduction to the Cormac McCarthy Society by Rick Wallach (University of Miami)

13:15-14:30 **Opening Keynote**

Dianne C. Luce (Midlands Technical College): Projecting Interiority: Psychogenesis and the Composition of *Outer Dark*

14:45-16:15 Panel 1: **Intersections and Intertextuality**

Chair: Marie Lienard-Yeterian (University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis)

Nicholas Monk (University of Warwick): Desert Gothic: Cormac McCarthy, Paul Bowles, Don Waters

Lydia R. Cooper (Creighton University): *The Road* and the Anglo-Irish Gothic Tradition

Randall Wilhelm (Anderson University South Carolina): Two Suns in the Sunset: *Götterdämmerung* in Wagner's *Das Nibelungenlied* and McCarthy's *The Road*

16:30-18:30 Panel 2: **Survival, Naturalism, and Neoliberalism**

Chair: James Dorson (Freie Universität Berlin)

Jan Nordby Gretlund (University of Southern Denmark): "Man Alone Confronts Society": With the Main Emphasis on *Child of God* (1973) and *The Crossing* (1994)

Balázs Keresztes (Eötvös Loránd University Budapest, Universität Münster): Survival Kit: Objects and Practices of Survival in Cormac McCarthy's Disaster Scenario

Alan Gibbs (University College Cork): "Things Happen to You They Happen": Cormac McCarthy and the New Naturalism

Simon Schleusener (Freie Universität Berlin): From *On the Road* to *The Road*: Cormac McCarthy, Neoliberalism, and the Dialectics of Mobility

Reception (catering at the JFKI)

Friday, July 8

- 9:30-11:00 Panel 3: **States of Nature**
Chair: Rick Wallach (University of Miami)
Robert Pirro (Georgia Southern University): *The Road* as State of Nature: Cormac McCarthy's Post-Apocalypse and Social Contract Theory
David Deacon (University College Dublin): "I aint the law": Observations of Cormac McCarthy's Competing Models of Justice
Tammis Thomas (University of Houston-Downtown): Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*: At the Crossroads between Rousseau and Hobbes
- 11:15-13:15 Panel 4: **Between Fiction and Science**
Chair: Julius Greve (Universität zu Köln)
Bryan Giemza (University of North Carolina): The Science of Chirality and McCarthy's Search for a Universal Script
Adrian Mioc (Huron University College): *Blood Meridian* or Transgressions without Transcendence
Ciarán Dowd (National University of Ireland, Galway): "A World Provisional, Contingent": Cormac McCarthy's SFI Period
Markus Wierschem (Universität Paderborn): "Order in the Woods and in Men's Souls": Maxwell's Demon and Crowd Dynamics in *Child of God* and *Outer Dark*
Lunch (on your own)
- 14:15-15:45 Panel 5: **The Body in Material Culture**
Chair: Bryan Giemza (University of North Carolina)
Marie-Agnès Gay (Université Jean Moulin): "Mutant Lines" and "Fluid Narrative Matter": Cormac McCarthy's Aesthet(h)ics of the "Canal-rhizome" in *Suttree*
Katja Rebmann (University of Warwick): "A delegation of human ruin": Reading the Body in McCarthy's Work
Michael Madsen (University of Southern Denmark): Heads* in Cormac McCarthy's Fiction (*Necks May Apply)
- 16:00-17:30 Panel 6: **Narrating the Human/Nonhuman Divide**
Chair: Rick Wallach (University of Miami)
Julia Tulloh (University of Melbourne): Rinty and Affect: Reconfiguring the Nature/Culture Divide in *Outer Dark*
Vanessa Keiper (Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz): The Dark Side of the "Pretty" Horses
Andrew Estes (University of Munich): Cannibalism and Other Transgressions of the Human in *The Road*

17:45-19:00 **Keynote Lecture**
Mark Seltzer (UCLA): The Systems Epoch

Dinner at Louise Dahlem (not included)

Saturday, July 9

9:00-10:30 **Panel 7: Aesthetic Crossroads**
Chair: Lydia R. Cooper (Creighton University)
Jim O'Sullivan (University of Dongguk, Seoul): Cormac McCarthy's Allegories of Fragmentation
Federico Bellini (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano): From Mimesis to Allegory and Back: Crossing the Boundary between Naturalism and Symbolism in Cormac McCarthy's Fiction
Eliot White (Millersville University): Narrative as Adaptation: A Biocultural Reading of *The Road*

10:45-12:45 **Panel 8: Crossing Generic Boundaries**
Chair: Nicholas Monk (University of Warwick)
Marie Lienard-Yeterian (University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis): South by Western, West by Southern: McCarthy's Border Crossings
Bärbel Schlimbach (Saarland University): Transgressions and Genre Crossings in McCarthy's *No Country for Old Men*
Christopher John Thornhill (University of Nottingham): Doomed Enterprises and Carrying the Fire: Describing McCarthy's Religion between Tragedy and Romance
James Dorson (Freie Universität Berlin): Beyond the Program: Cormac McCarthy and Genre Fiction

Lunch (on your own)

14:00-15:30 **Panel 9: Literature, Religion, Philosophy**
Chair: Markus Wierschem (Universität Paderborn)
Julius Greve (Universität zu Köln): Descent and Supplication: The Trauma of the Earth in *The Orchard Keeper*
Patrick O'Connor (Nottingham Trent University): The Unworking of the World: Overcoming Violence in *Suttree* and *The Road*
Christina Bieber Lake (Wheaton College): Christ-Haunted: Theology on *The Road*

15:45-17:00 **Closing Keynote**
David Holloway (University of Derby): Trauma, Feeling and the Politics of Affect in Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*