

## 2016 Fellows Meeting Morning Group Seminars

### Academic Game Design

This group will conduct an academic game writing workshop.

Contact: David Stewart ([david.stewart@csulb.edu](mailto:david.stewart@csulb.edu)) or Amy Berger ([pangaia16@yahoo.com](mailto:pangaia16@yahoo.com))

### Celebrating the Search

Celebrating the Search is continuing its joyous convening. We have three spots already spoken for: Reade Dornan, Libby Sfekas, and Kathleen Banchoff; but we also have a very welcome spot for YOU to share some of your experiences in a very welcoming atmosphere.

Contact: Carol Ochs ([cochs@earthlink.net](mailto:cochs@earthlink.net))

### Forms of Biography, Autobiography and Memoir

*People of Character, People seen as Characters – Integrity, Sarcasm, and Spite in the Family and Community*

Our group of many years continues with a topic that offers a refreshing angle on our lives. What do we dare to see, speak and write about in terms of the question of character and its several meanings? Perhaps you have an intriguing ancestor, friend (or not) who has contributed to your values. Perhaps the view of yourself evolving over time fits this topic? Is there a play or novel that ranges across our theme to which you can relate? Do you have a story to tell with artifacts (picture, photos, video) can you assume the role of the character you like or not?

We are an inclusive and creative group appreciative of new members. You can share in the form of an individual presentation of varied length or participate in a panel. If you want to commit yourself or just talk over an idea:

Contact: Lynore Banchoff ([LynoreB@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LynoreB@sbcglobal.net))

### Historical Fiction

In concert with the meeting's theme—**The Politics of Dissent: Satire, Sarcasm, and Spite in Civil Society**, the Historical Fiction Workshop will discuss the following books in July: Thomas Pynchon's *Mason & Dixon* (discussion leader, Sarah Moore), Don DeLillo's *White Noise* (discussion leader, Mary Papke), Jason Heller's *Taft 2012* (discussion leader, Judy Saltzman), and Mo Yan's *Pow!* (discussion leader, Tom Stockdale). We all hope to see you at Oberlin!

Contact: Mary Papke ([mpapke@utk.edu](mailto:mpapke@utk.edu))

## **Pop Culture**

The Popular Culture morning group-now in its second (third?) decade, works to bring a distinctly SVHE lens to popular culture-i.e., we are interested in looking at popular culture broadly understood with three questions in mind:

- 1) What values are communicated through popular culture?
- 2) What does popular culture tell us about society?
- 3) How can we use this knowledge?

We define popular culture quite broadly. Last year's sessions included discussions of anime, barbecue culture, and the identity of the hillbilly in mid-20th century media.

In the spirit of the theme, this year we want to look at the satire and dissent in popular culture. So far we have one presentation scheduled, on religious satire and satire of religion. Other presentations are earnestly (if satirically) welcomed.

Contact: Dan Sack ([dansack1962@gmail.com](mailto:dansack1962@gmail.com))

## **Theorizing Culture**

This year the morning group seminar will be looking at satire and its relationship to broader cultural and political contexts. Readings will focus on Mikhail Bakhtin's *Rabelais and His World* and Sophia McClennen and Remy Maisel's *Is Satire Saving Our Nation? Mockery and American Politics*. Participants are encouraged to obtain both books. Additional readings may be made available as PDF files.

Contact: Eric Bain-Selbo ([eric.bain-selbo@wku.edu](mailto:eric.bain-selbo@wku.edu)) or Allen Dunn ([ardunn@utk.edu](mailto:ardunn@utk.edu))

## **Social Justice and the Academy**

"The Poor Say 'No!': The 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott as Political Dissent." Using Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, *Stride Toward Freedom*, Social Justice and the Academy morning group participants will delve into the event that many credit with starting the American civil rights movement. We will consider the conditions that gave rise to the boycott, the participants and leaders of the movement, and the effect their nonviolent direct action campaign had on the City of Montgomery, the movement participants, and the country.

Contact: Greg Sapp ([gsapp@stetson.edu](mailto:gsapp@stetson.edu))

## **The Timbre of Twenty-First Century African Voices**

We will launch our discussion with a critique of three post-post apartheid novels in an effort to explore how contemporary writers use satire, irreverence, pathos, irony and other voices to describe current South African life. Those novels are Niq Mhlonogo's *Dog Eat Dog* and his *After Tears* as well as Phaswane Mpe's *Welcome to Hillbrow*. We end with the winner of the 2012 Nigeria Prize for Literature Chika Unigwe's poignant *On Black Sister Street*.

The first presentation will be on *Dog Eat Dog* (discussion leader, Linda Susan Beard). Papers/presentations on the other books are invited. All books are available from Amazon.

Contact: Linda Susan Beard ([lsbeard@gmail.com](mailto:lsbeard@gmail.com) or [lbeard@brynmawr.edu](mailto:lbeard@brynmawr.edu))

### **Struggling for the Soul of America**

Based on Preston Browning's recently completed book of 10 essays entitled *Struggling For The Soul Of Our Country*. With titles such as "American Global Hegemony vs. the Quest for a New Humanity," "America's Forgotten Wars," "Why I Am a Christian Socialist," "Religionless Christianity in an Age of Spectacle," and "American Dystopia: Cold War, the CIA and John F. Kennedy as Sacrificial Victim," this book explores what Preston considers to be the principal sources of the social and spiritual sickness he believes plagues the soul of America. Alienation, addiction and the "plague" of money are subjects the book addresses, as well as climate change and multinational capitalism. The book will be published by Wipf&Stock on June 1.

Contact : Preston Browning ([browning@wellspringhouse.net](mailto:browning@wellspringhouse.net))