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American Association of  
Australasian Literary Studies

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2023 Annual Conference

Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University



*Hohokam Petroglyphs, Hieroglyphic Canyon,  
Tonto National Forest. Photograph by Alex Young*

AAALS acknowledges the twenty-three Native Nations that have inhabited the land now occupied by ASU for centuries. Arizona State University's four campuses are located in the Salt River Valley on ancestral territories of Indigenous peoples, including the Akimel O'odham (Pima) and Pee Posh (Maricopa) Indian Communities, whose care and keeping of these lands allows us to be here today. AAALS acknowledges the sovereignty of these nations and hope that our work to build connections between Indigenous scholars and other critics of settler colonialism on both sides of the Pacific furthers the work of Indigenous resurgence in Arizona and beyond.

*This land acknowledgment has been adapted from [the official land acknowledgement of the ASU Libraries](#).*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Arizona Wilderness Brewing, 201 E Roosevelt St.  
**Welcome Happy Hour (cash bar)**

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

9:30 am – 10:00 am. Mercado C 146  
**Breakfast and sign in**

10:00 am – 10:25 am. Mercado C 146  
**Official Welcome**

- Welcome to Country
- Remarks from hosts and sponsors: Dean Olga Davis (Barrett Honors College) and Professor Jason Bruner (Desert Humanities Initiative)
- Organizers' Remarks: Travis Franks (Utah State University) and Alex Trimble Young (Arizona State University)

10:30 am – 12:00 pm. Mercado C 216

**Session I: Australian Indigenous Narrative and The Detective Genre**

- Moderator: *Brenda Machosky (University of Hawai'i West O`ahu)*
- Theodore Sheckels (Randolph-Macon College), "Oppression of and Justice for Indigenous People: Twisting the Crime Genre in Michael Bennett's *Better the Blood* and Linda Hogan's *Mean Spirit*"
- Eva Rueschmann (Hampshire College), "Ancestry, Parentage, History, Settler Colonial Myths: The Intersectional Meanings of 'Origin' in the Aboriginal Australian TV series *Mystery Road: Origin* (2022)"

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm. Mercado C 146  
**Lunch**

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm. Mercado C 216

**Poetry Reading and Discussion**

- Moderator: *Mike Griffiths (University of Wollongong)*
- Yvette Holt (Executive Chairperson, First Nations Australia Writers Network)

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Mercado C 216

**Session II: Lost and Found in the Australian Novel**

- Moderator: *Robert Zeller (College of New Mexico)*
- Jaroslav Kusnir (University of Presov), "Construction of Place and Region in Tim Winton's *The Shepherd's Hut*"
- Rich Carr (University of Alaska, Fairbanks), "A Writer Adrift in the Maniototo: Janet Frame's 'Entertainment'"

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm. Mercado C 103

**Keynote Address**

- Moderator: *Alex Young (Arizona State University)*
- Tom Lynch (University of Nebraska, Emeritus), "From Handback to Landback: Some Lessons from Uluru."

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

8:30 am – 9:00 am. Mercado C 146

**Breakfast**

9:15 am – 10:45 am. Mercado C 216

**Session III: The Settler Colonial Novel in Australia and Beyond**

○ Moderator: *Barbara Hoffmann (University of Miami)*

- Carolyn Bliss (University of Utah), “The Genre Question: The Role of Aborigines in Patrick White’s *A Fringe of Leaves*”
- Hamish Dalley (Daemen University), “Frontier Fiction across Continents: Patrick White, Marie Cardinal and the Settler-Colonial Novel”
- Travis Franks (Utah State University), “Coming into Contact with the Queer Uncanny in *The Secret River*”

11:00 am – 12:30 pm. Mercado C 216

**Session IV: Relational Transnational Connections in Australia Literature**

○ Moderator: *Eva Rueschmann (Hampshire College)*

- Michael Griffiths (University of Wollongong), “Lionel Fogarty and Transnational Blackness”
- Weihsin Gui (University of California, Riverside), “Asian Australian Re-tellings: Mirandi Riwoe’s Novellas as Speculative Fiction”
- John Scheckter (Long Island University), “Gail Jones in No Man’s Land: Empathy and Its Discontents in *Salonika Burning*”

• 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm. Mercado C 146

**Lunch**

2:15 pm – 3:45 pm. Mercado C 216

**Session V: Contexts for Australian Literature & Film**

○ Moderator: *Tom Lynch (University of Nebraska, Emeritus)*

- Barbara Hoffmann (University of Miami), “Teaching Aboriginal Writing in the Composition Classroom”
- Brenda Machosky (University of Hawai’i, West O’ahu), “L’histoire: Stories and Histories”
- Alex Young (Arizona State University), “Decolonial Allegory and Ecology in Ivan Sen’s *Dust*”

3:45 pm – 4:00 pm. Mercado C 216

**President’s Update**

- Brenda Machosky (University of Hawai’i, West O’ahu)

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm. Mercado C 103

**Creative Keynote**

○ Moderator: *Travis Franks (Utah State University)*

- Graham Akhurst (University of Technology, Sydney), Reading from *Borderland*

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

10:00 am – 12:00 pm. The Heard Museum, 2301 N Central Ave.

**Curator Led-Tour of Indigenous Art Exhibits**

- Velma Kee Craig, Assistant Curator

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm. The Heard Museum Café

**Farewell Lunch (optional, no host)**

GENERAL INFORMATION

**Venue & Transportation**

- All panels and keynote addresses will take place in the [Mercado C building](#), at the NE corner of Fifth Street and Monroe, on Arizona State University's Downtown Campus in Phoenix (not to be confused with the main campus in Tempe).
- The venue is easily accessible from Sky Harbor International Airport. The most cost-effective way to get to downtown Phoenix from the airport is to take the light rail. From arrivals, follow signs for the [Sky Train](#). Take the Sky Train to the 44<sup>th</sup> St. & Washington [light rail](#) stop. Take the Light Rail westbound toward downtown Phoenix. The [3<sup>rd</sup> St & Washington stop](#) is a few blocks south of the venue; the [1<sup>st</sup> Ave & Van Buren](#) stop is also close.
- Our dinner venue [Gallo Blanco](#) is within easy walking distance from the venue. [The Heard Museum](#) is a long walk or a short light rail to the Encanto & Central Ave light rail stop.

**Food**

On Thursday and Friday, breakfast and lunch will be provided to all conference participants free of charge at the conference venue. Our conference dinner will take place at [Gallo Blanco Café](#), which serves Oaxacan-inspired Mexican food crafted from locally sourced ingredients. Our prix-fixe dinner, included in conference fee, will feature a selection of appetizers, an entree (including a vegetarian option), dessert, and two drink tickets, redeemable for either a margarita, a selection of beers, or soft drinks. Participants will be responsible for the food and drink at the optional welcome happy hour at [Arizona Wilderness Brewing](#) and the farewell lunch at the [Heard Museum Café](#).

**Heard Museum Tour**

Our optional tour of The Heard Museum Saturday morning, one of the nation's premier collections of Indigenous art, will be led by assistant curator Velma Kee Craig, who is also a celebrated Diné (Navajo) writer and artist. The admissions fee (not covered by conference registration) is \$17.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS

The organizers and the AAALS board would like to thank, first and foremost, Barrett, the Honors College at ASU, especially Dean Tara Williams, Associate Dean Olga Davis, and Faculty Chair Jenny Brian for generously hosting of this conference. The Embassy of Australia (Washington DC), The Desert Humanities Initiative at ASU's Institute for Humanities Research, and ASU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences also provided generous support.