



# *Fin-de-Siècle* Modernisms

**Program for the  
27th Annual USC  
Comparative Literature Conference**

**February 28 - March 1, 2025**

**Lumpkin Auditorium, Close-Hipp Bldg.  
University of South Carolina, Columbia**

Sponsored by the [Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures](#)  
the [USC Program in Comparative Literature](#)  
European Studies Committee of the [Walker Institute of International and Area Studies](#).

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>

All events on both days will take place in the [Lumpkin Auditorium](#), Summit West Room, or Summit East Room on the top floor of the Close-Hipp Building (east end of USC campus).

All times are Eastern Standard Time (US).

**8:30**            **Coffee and pastries**

**8:45**            Opening Remarks and Welcome (**Lumpkin Auditorium**)

### **Session A: 9:00 – 10:15**

#### **Panel A.1: Material Cultures of the Fin de Siècle**

**Summit West Room**

Moderator: Jeanne Britton (U of South Carolina)

Emily Cox (Yale U), “A Tale of Two Globes: Building Worlds at the *Fin du Monde*” [V]

Kaylen Pritchard (U of South Carolina), “‘Inside this book, just have a look’: Indulgent Aestheticism in Defining a Modernist Soldier Experience”

Jon Stone (Franklin & Marshall College), “Making the Modernist Book: The Institutions of Russian Symbolism and Futurism”

#### **Panel A.2: Sapphic Alliances**

**Lumpkin Auditorium**

Moderator: Ana Parejo Vadillo (Birkbeck, U of London)

Daniel Bresland (Queen’s U, Belfast), “‘My First Great Teacher’: Dawson, Duty, and Faith in the Verse Dramas of Michael Field”

Melanie Hawthorne (Texas A&M), “‘Rise and Decline’: Guillaume Apollinaire Portrays Renée Vivien”

Sophie Yates (U of British Columbia), “Seducing Sappho: Queer Alliance and Literary Subgenre in the Works of Michael Field, Renée Vivien and H.D.”

**10:15 – 10:30**

**Coffee Break**

## Session B: 10:30 – 12:15

### Panel B.1: Forward Lunges and Backward Glances

Summit West Room

Moderator: Jeanne Garane (U of South Carolina)

Lamia Mechgoug (U of Biskra, Algeria), “Precursors to Modernism: Elements of Modernism in Late Victorian Literature” [V]

Nour Benghellab-Outtas (NYU School of Law), “Mythopoetic Modernism: *Schattenrisse* as Carl Schmitt’s Conceptual Laboratory”

Daniel Wartham (U of South Carolina), “‘the same feeling about any action’: An Examination of Hemingway’s Aesthetics”

Shuying Wang (U of South Carolina), “Women of the Wilderness and the Civilization: An Intertextual Reading of *The Heart of Redness* and *Heart of Darkness*”

### Panel B.2: The New Woman in Space

Lumpkin Auditorium

Moderator: Catherine Keyser (U of South Carolina)

Sophia McKeegan (U of South Carolina), “George Egerton’s Alchemy: Restlessness, Hybridity, and Liberation”

Madison Storrs (UNC Chapel Hill), “A ‘Somewhat Disillusioning Place’: Inhabiting Modernity in Ella Hepworth Dixon’s *The Story of a Modern Woman*”

Eleanor Rambo (UNC Chapel Hill), “‘Her heart was troubled by a kind of terror’: *Sister Carrie*, *Passing*, and the Urban Sublime”

Emily Waller Singeisen (UNC Chapel Hill), “In a Sapphic Time and Space: The Chronotope of Lesbos and the ‘Modern’ Lesbian Subject in *Les Chansons de Bilitis*”

12:15 – 2:00

Lunch (list of nearby options will be provided)

## Session C: 2:00 – 3:15

### Panel C.1: Avant-Garde Aestheticisms? Michael Field and Dollie Radford

Lumpkin Auditorium

Moderator: Julie Wise (U of South Carolina, Aiken)

Jill Ehnenn (U of Alberta), “Queen Eleanor, Fair Rosamund, and the Fin-de-Siècle Marriage Debates: Two Studies in Female Rage and Sexual Autonomy”

Sarah Parker (Loughborough U), “Aestheticism on the Underground: Dollie Radford’s Lyric Commutes” [V]

LeeAnne M. Richardson (Georgia State U), “Re-imagining Historiography through Drama: Michael Field’s *Stephania*”

**Panel C.2: New Regimes of Labor at the Fin de Siècle**

**Summit East Room**

Moderator: Krista van Fleit (U of South Carolina)

Jessica Thomas (U of Chester), “The Urban Modernity of Zola’s *Ladies’ Paradise*” [V]

Andrea Towns (U of South Carolina), “Telegraph Booths and Bird Cages: An Analysis of Henry James’s *In the Cage*”

Thomas Alexander (U of South Carolina), “Navigating Masculinity in Zola’s *Germinal* – Revolutionary Zeal and Sexual Desire in Etienne Lantier’s Response to Hegemonic Masculinity”

**Panel C.3: Subverted Chronologies and Reimagined Pasts at the Fin de Siècle**

**Summit West Room**

Moderator: Paul Allen Miller (U of South Carolina)

Hind Ashraf Hosny (U of South Carolina), “Tracing Vision in Baudelaire’s *Les Fleurs du Mal* Through Sufi Aesthetics”

Rajeshwari Vallury (U of New Mexico), “Expressing the Heterotopia and Heterochrony of the *Interregnum*: The Heroism of Modern Life from Baudelaire to Huysmans”

Mohammad Irfan (Ambedkar U, Delhi), “Genres of Representing the Past in 1880s and 1890s: The Historical Romance of Al-Andalus, British Egypt and India” [V]

**3:15 – 3:30**

**Refreshments**

**3:30 – 5:00**

**First Keynote Talk (Lumpkin Auditorium)**

**“Oscar Wilde, Camp Racism, and Antiracist Camp”**

**Dr. Kristin Mahoney, Michigan State University**

## SATURDAY, MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>

All events on both days will take place in the [Lumpkin Auditorium](#), Summit West Room, or Summit East Room on the top floor of the Close-Hipp Building (east end of USC campus)

**8:45**            **Coffee and pastries**

### **Session D: 9:00 – 10:15**

#### **Panel D.1: The Uncanny Fin de Siècle**

**Summit West Room**

Moderator: Aria dal Molin (U of South Carolina)

Hanane Boumaraf (U of Biskra, Algeria), “Modernist Features in Fin-de-Siècle English Fiction: A Study of H. G. Wells’ *The Invisible Man*” [V]

Jonathan Brent Butler (U of South Carolina), “Dracula’s Long Shadow: The Persistence of the Fin-de-Siècle’s Greatest Monster”

Angela Tumini (U of South Carolina), “Female Empowerment and the Subversion of Traditional Power Dynamics in Sheridan Le Fanu’s *Carmilla*”

#### **Panel D.2: Baltic Decadence**

**Summit East Room**

Moderator: Yvonne Ivory (U of South Carolina)

Ian Gwin (U of Washington), “The Travels of the *Happy Prince*: Fairy Tales, Aestheticism, and the Formation of National Literatures in the Baltics”

Mirjam Hinrikus (Under and Tuglas Literature Centre of the Estonian Academy of Sciences), “Linguistic Innovation, Nationalism, and Literary Decadence: The Estonian Case”

Merlin Kirikal (Under and Tuglas Literature Centre of the Estonian Academy of Sciences), “Estonian Women Writers’ *Fin-de-Siècle* Fiction and Literary Innovation: The New Woman in Sophia Vardi’s and Alma Ostra’s Oeuvre 1914–1923”

#### **Panel D.3: Fin-de-Siècle Modernisms, American Contexts**

**Lumpkin Auditorium**

Moderator: Mercedes Lopez Rodriguez (U of South Carolina)

Leland Jasperse (U of Chicago), “Sexual Anti-Types: Spinster Regionalism, New Woman Naturalism, and the Rise of Consumer Desire in the American Fin-de-Siècle”

Michael Stansell (U of South Carolina), “*The Call of the Capitalist*: Labor and Alienation in Jack London’s ‘To Build a Fire’”

Colton Greganti (U of South Carolina), “The Haunted H(e)art: Myth and Hauntology in Hart Crane’s *The Bridge*”

**10:15 – 10:30**

**Coffee Break**

**Session E: 10:30 – 12:15**

**Panel E.1: Queer Lives and Afterlives of the Fin de Siècle**

**Lumpkin Auditorium**

Moderator: Kristin Mahoney (Michigan State U)

Anthony Teets (Farmingdale State College), “The Janus-Faced Temporality of Sandro Botticelli in Walter Pater and Vernon Lee”

Kai Yakimenka (U of South Carolina), “Queer Kinships in Vernon Lee”

Frankie Dytor (U of Exeter), “Edith Lees Ellis and Queer Disability Studies at the Fin de Siècle” [V]

Kiegan Lloyd (U of Saskatchewan), “‘You in Bed, I in Bed:’ The Queer Performativity of Aleister Crowley” [V]

**Panel E.2: Reframing Modernism**

**Summit West Room**

Moderator: Angela Acosta (U of South Carolina)

Paola di Gennaro (Suor Orsola Benincasa University, Naples), “Uranian Poetry: From Decadence to Modernism” [V]

Nicoletta Ascianto (U of York), “Lunar into Electric, Decadent into Modern: Modernist Poets and Fin-de-siècle Lights” [V]

Kholoud Chendoudi (Abdelmalek Essaâdi U, Morocco), “Rethinking Modernism’s Quest for Novelty: A Case Study of Imagism” [V]

A. Brice Cummings (East Texas A&M), “Postwar Poetic *Bovarysme* in Eliot and Fondane”

**12:15 – 2:00**

**Lunch (Boxed Lunches Provided)**

**2:00 – 3:30**

**Second Keynote Talk (Lumpkin Auditorium)**

**“Binding the Arts”**

**Dr. Ana Parejo Vadillo, Birkbeck College, University of London**

**3:30 – 3:45**

**Refreshments**

## Session F: 3:45 – 5:15

### **Panel F.1: Transatlantic Hispanophone Modernisms**

**Lumpkin Auditorium**

Moderator: Jorge Camacho (U of South Carolina)

Gisselle Lopez (U of South Carolina), “Female Narratives and Desires in Latin American *Modernismo*”

Carter Vaughn (U of South Carolina), “Dualities of suffering: Illness and Pain in the Modernist Works of Julián del Casal”

Wari Gálvez (U of South Carolina), “Bad Modernity in Emilio Bobadilla’s *A fuego lento*”

Angela Acosta (U of South Carolina), “A ‘Chorus of Neighboring Female Poets’: Spanish Sapphic Modernity and the ‘Academy of Witches’”

### **Panel F.2: Urban Systems, Urban Selves**

**Summit West Room**

Moderator: Jie Guo (U of South Carolina)

Tereza Brala (Trier U, Germany), “The Prefiguration of Modernist Selfhood in Fin de Siècle Lyric” [V]

Michael Gavin (U of South Carolina), “The Poetics of Complexity: Metaphor, Form, and Change in Urban Evolution”

Rume Kpadamrophe (U of South Carolina), “The City as a Memoryscape: Temporality and Modernity in *Open City* and *Mrs. Dalloway*”

