

## 50<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN STUDIES CONFERENCE 2025

9 OCTOBER – 11 OCTOBER

### THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER

8:30 – 9:45                      **Welcome**

Continental Breakfast

10:00 – 11:15                    **Session 1**

#### **Panel 1: *Legacies of World War II: Recording, Remembering, Revising***

**Chair: [TBD]**

“Music Pushing a Social Hierarchy, Evoking Division and Unity”

Alexis Ritterbush, University of Nebraska Omaha

“American Journalists and Germany in the ‘Nightmare Years’”

Donald Sunnen, Virginia Military Institute

“Northern European Memories of WWII—Steps on a Bumpy Road Towards Are-Old Truths about Humanity”

Poul Houe, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

“Red Bear in the Forest: J.K. Zawodny and the Katyn Massacre”

Andrew Gregg, Historic Preservation Commissioner

#### **Virtual Panel 1: *Connections I: Women in Culture across Time***

**Chair: [TBD]**

“Dialogue with the Classics: The Female Savior in Bulgakov’s Fiction”

Nina Efimov, Florida State University

“From Oppression to Vindication: Female Revenge Ghosts and the Domestic Space as Liminal Place in the Supernatural Tales of Lettice Galbraith”

Elisa Fierro, Independent Scholar

“The Letters of Bianca Cappello at the Home Foundation: An Interpretive Hypothesis”

Giovanna Potenza, University of Naples, Italy, Federico II

“Christinas in Exile: Pizan and Belgiojoso”

Carolyn Gascoigne, University of Houston—Downtown

**THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER (cont.)**

**10:00 – 11:15            Session 1 (cont.)**

**Panel 2: *Dante Alighieri and His Poetic Afterlife***

**Chair: [TBD]**

“Dante Alighieri: the Poet’s Poet”

Rebecca Umlad, University of Nebraska Kearney

“Poetic Voice and Spiritual Experience: Dante and the Shaping of Romantic Verse”

Kajetan Hubl, University of Nebraska Kearney

“The Beatrician Experience: The Power of Memory upon Receptive Souls”

Allison Arens, University of Nebraska Kearney

**11:30 – 12:45            Session 2**

**Panel 3: *Silver, Spices, and Ships I: Late Medieval Networks of Commerce and Credit***

**Chair: Martina Saltimacchia, University of Nebraska Omaha**

“Networks and Debt in Datini’s Archive”

Wyatt Smith, University of Nebraska Omaha

“The Knights Templar and the Foundation of Medieval Banking”

Sean Nish, University of Nebraska Omaha

“From Markets to Mayhem: Italian Merchants and Mediterranean Piracy”

Zach Manning, University of Nebraska Omaha

“A Road Paved with Silk and Gold: the Role of Jewish Merchants in the Rise of the Silk Road”

Graham McVicker, University of Nebraska Omaha

## **THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER (cont.)**

### **Virtual Panel 2: *Connections II: Transnational Cultural Studies***

**Chair: [TBD]**

“The Paradigm of Just One Brick: From Berlin Residential Villa Architecture to Beyond the International Style with Bauhaus Craftsman, the Architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe”  
Titian Butash, Independent Scholar

“Clash of Narratives about the Second World War’s Legacy in Slovenia after 1975”  
Marta Cmiel-Bazant, Institute of Western and Southern Slavic Studies, University of Warsaw

“Straight from America to Romania: Literature, Music, Film in the 1960s”  
Gabriel Manea, Ovidius University of Constanta

### **KEYNOTE 1**

**1:00 – 2:30**

**Lunch and Keynote 1**

**John Minihane, Independent Scholar**

**2:45 – 4:00**

**Session 3**

### **Panel 4: *Friendship in Hume, Kant, and Nietzsche***

**Chair: [TBD]**

“David Hume on Commerce and Friendship”  
Patrick Murray, Creighton University

“Grappling with Dualism: Kant on Friendship”  
Jeanne Schuler, Creighton University

“Nietzsche on the Counter-Ideal of Friendship”  
Richard White, Creighton University

**THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER (cont.)**

**Panel 5: *Intersections I: Medicine and Morality in European Visual Arts, Folklore, and Literature***

**Chair: [TBD]**

“Medical Illustration From the 11th to 19th Century: A Map of Medical Humanities”  
Grace Spaulding, University of Nebraska Omaha

“Tales, Terror, and Trap Doors: The Vampire in European Culture, 1732-1851”  
Stu Burns, Stevens Creek Press

“Landscapes of Progress and Decadence: Interpretations of Paintings of the Russian Countryside at the World of Art Exhibitions”  
Cadra Peterson McDaniel, Texas A & M University Central Texas

“Immoral Art: The Intersections of Gender and Pre-Raphaelite Artwork in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*”  
Isabella Martin, University of Nebraska Omaha

**4:15 – 5:30**

**Session 4**

**Panel 6: *Spiritual Ethics and Political Agency in Twelfth-Century Thought***

**Chair: [TBD]**

“Medicine and Morality in Hildegard of Bingen’s *Ordo Virtutum*”  
Cheryl Mendoza, University of Nebraska Omaha

“St. Thomas Aquinas and the Importance of Avoiding Evil”  
John F. Morris, Rockhurst University

“Political Criticism and Social Discourse in Marie de France’s *Lais*”  
Christina Delray, University of Nebraska Omaha

**Virtual Panel 3: *Gender in Society***

**Chair: [TBD]**

“Emancipation versus Liberation: the Role of Women’s Education in Eastern European Society”  
Silvia Asandei, University of Kansas

“The Role of Gender in Social and Economic Policy in the European Union”  
Anjali Yogi, Maitreyi College, Delhi University

**THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER (cont.)**

**5:30 – 6:30**

**Welcome Cocktail Reception**

**FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER**

**8:00 – 9:15**

Continental Breakfast

**9:30 – 10:45            Session 5**

**Panel 7: *Legacies of Empire: Past and Present***

**Chair: [TBD]**

“Roads of Empire: the Roman Road Network”

Michael Ziemann, Seattle Pacific University

“Finlandizing a Soviet Territory: Nation, Culture, Language, and Geopolitics in the Soviet-Finnish Borderlands”

Diego Benning Wang, Princeton University

“‘Blood is National, Plasma is Global’: EU Plasma Collection Systems and Policies”

Zsofia Bacsadi, Central European University

**Virtual Panel 4: *Ethics and Identity in 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Century European Literature***

**Chair: [TBD]**

“Narratives of Suffering: Exploring Ethical Representation of Tragedy in Contemporary Anglophone Fiction”

Manzar Feiz, University of Texas at Dallas

“‘A Shock of Recognition, as Though a Door was Opening Up’: Queer Identity in Mohsin Hamid’s *Exit West*”

Samuel Munger, South Dakota State University

“The ‘Superfluous Man’ in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Russian Literature”

Evita Ilushenko, Florida State University

“(Counter-) Politics in Language and Literature in the Postcolonial Society”

Sujoy Barman, Ganpat University

**FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER (cont.)**

**9:30 – 10:45                      Session 5 [cont.]**

**Panel 8: *Whispers Beneath the Silence: Reclaiming Hidden Histories of WWII***

**Chair: [TBD]**

“Women’s Work: Gender, Forced Labor, and Resistance in the Union Kommando at Auschwitz”

Jessica Foster, Indiana University

“The Legacy of the Lesser-Known Nuremberg Trials”

Isaac Amon, Washington University in St. Louis School of Law

“Using Digital Tools to Trace Holocaust Experiences”

Andrea Wagh, University of Nebraska Lincoln

**11:00 – 12:15                      Session 6**

**Panel 9: *Alternative Heroes and Heroics in Old English Poetry***

**Chair: Lisabeth Buchelt, University of Nebraska Omaha**

“Blood in the Bedroom: Female Suffering and Victory in the Old English *Judith*”

Vaness Kalil, University of Nebraska Omaha

“The Words of Wynn in *Beowulf*: The Warnings of Hrothgar’s Queen”

James Buckingham, Independent Scholar

“Halls and Hosts: Heroic Bodies of Water in the Old English *Exodus*”

Thomas Kalil, University of Toronto

**Panel 10: *Scent, Sound, Sentiment: Narrating Loss through Memory and Decay***

**Chair: Gwentyth Cliver, University of Nebraska Omaha**

“Seeking a Lost Time in *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald”

Herbert Craig, University of Nebraska Kearney

“Images and Sounds of Empire: Austria in Joseph Roth’s *Radetzky* and *Die Kapuzinergruft*”

Julian Gillilan, University of Nebraska Lincoln

“‘I’ll Make You Shit!’: Olfactory Othering and the Necropolitics of Colonial Prisons”

Andrew Kettler, University of South Carolina

**FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER (cont.)**

**KEYNOTE 2**

**12:30 – 2:00**

**Lunch and Keynote 2**

**Ari Kohen, Professor of Political Science and Schlesinger  
Professor of Social Justice  
Director, Norman and Bernice Harris Center for Judaic Studies  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln**

**2:15 – 3:30**

**Session 7**

**Panel 11: *Tales from Two Cultures: Connections between the Czech Republic and the United States***

**Chair: [TBD]**

“Czech Communities in the United States during World War II”

Martin Nekola, Czechoslovak Talks Project

“A Tale of Two Cities: Comparative Policy Lessons from Opava, Czech Republic and Kearney, Nebraska”

Co-authored by Tell Jensen and Peter Longo, University of Nebraska Kearney

**Panel 12: *Intersections II: European Philosophy and Literature***

**Chair: [TBD]**

“Uncanny Constructions of Gender in Mary Wollstonecraft’s *Maria, or the Wrongs of Woman*”

Kassondra Nanfito, South Dakota State University

“Political Epistemology in Europe: Recent Contributions and Their Implications for Engaged Teaching and Research in the Spanish Humanities”

Steven Torres, University of Nebraska Omaha

“The Impossibility of Racial Systems in *Die Verlobung in St. Domingo*”

Spencer Tessman, University of Nebraska Lincoln

**FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER (cont.)**

**3:45 – 5:00**

**Session 8**

**Panel 13: *Change and Challenge in the European Union***

**Chair: [TBD]**

“Joint Acquisition as a Catalyst in EU Defense Policy: From Intergovernmental Hesitation to Supranational Momentum”

João Guerreiro, NOVA University of Lisbon—FCSH

“A Tree-mendous Regulation: EUDR’s Paper Jam in the U.S.”

Scott Sybeldon, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

“The Mobilization of Serbian Youth: Has the Time Arrived for Serious Reform in the Nation?”

Erwin F. Erhardt, University of Cincinnati

**Panel 14: *Silver, Spices, and Ships II: Late Medieval Material Culture and Consumption***

**Chair: [TBD]**

“The Intersection between Medieval Pilgrimage and the Economy”

Katie Dykstra, University of Nebraska Omaha

“The Effects of Luxury on Medieval Europe”

Tyler Gillis, Florida State University

“From Vine to Wine: Medieval Art and the Material Culture of the Wine Trade”

John Schnelker, University of Nebraska Omaha

**Virtual Panel 5: *Criminal Minds: Profiling, Espionage, and Justice***

**Chair: [TBD]**

“Techniques from the Past Impacting the Future: the Birth of Profiling”

Myriam Krepps, Pittsburg State University

"Contributions of the British Special Operations Executive during WWII"

Leo Gruber, PennWest University

“Joseph Banks: Privateer of Forged, Plagiarized, and Contracted Scientific ‘Discoveries’”

Anna Faktorovich, Dickinson State University

**CONFERENCE CELEBRATORY DINNER**

**7:00 – 9:00**

**No-host Dinner and Awards ceremony**

**SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER**

**KEYNOTE 3**

**9:00 – 11:00**

**Continental Breakfast and Keynote 3**

***Acknowledging the Past/Envisioning the Future***

Private lecture and tour of Samuel Bak Museum

Featuring artist Samuel Bak (virtually from Massachusetts)

Hillary Nather-Ditisch, Executive Director

Alexandra Cardon, Chief Curator

Kati Larson, Director of Education

**END OF CONFERENCE**