

THE QUEEN'S GRADUATE ENGLISH SOCIETY PRESENTS

ESCAPE:  
MOVING AWAY,  
MOVING TOWARDS,  
MOVING WITHIN

THE INAUGURAL  
QUEEN'S GRADUATE CONFERENCE IN LITERATURE

May 27 & 28, 2022 • Zoom



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The QGCL Committee would like to respectfully acknowledge that the Department of English at Queen's University is situated on the land of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples. Because this conference is being held virtually, we extend this acknowledgement to all Indigenous peoples of all the lands that our collective body occupies and inhabits today as we gather from across the globe to share and celebrate graduate student work. The QGCL encourages settler scholars to take responsibility in building positive relationships between nations and in developing a deeper understanding of Indigenous peoples and their cultures.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Organizers' welcome	3
Featured speakers	4
Schedule	6
May 27th: Morning sessions	7
May 27th: Afternoon sessions	8
Creative Writing Night	9
May 28th: Morning sessions	10
May 28th: Afternoon sessions	11
Conference committee	12

# ORGANIZERS' WELCOME

Strong thematic direction animates a conference. For the first-ever Queen's Graduate Conference in Literature, our brilliant thematic directors devised the malleable and provocative theme "escape: moving away, moving towards, moving within." Conditions like persecution, war, abuse, addiction, or illness may render escape vitally important. But escape can also be joyful and therapeutic, as when we heed Rihanna's call to "escape into the music" or follow Octavia Butler's lead and "escape into the fictional world of someone else's trouble." As we reflect on this inaugural QGCL, we are grateful that virtual conferencing allows us to escape from monetary, temporal, and geographical restrictions so that we can share ideas with colleagues and friends from around the world.

Thank you to our panelists, our moderators, and our featured speakers, Conyer Clayton and Dr. Nevena Martinović, for sharing their time and insights with us. We would also like to thank the Conference Committee for their work and dedication. Special thanks to Skylar Kovacs, who has worked tirelessly to make sure this conference runs smoothly. Thank you to our Department Head, Dr. Sam McKegney, and our Department Manager, Meghan Brien, for their continuous support of graduate student work. Lastly, thank you to everyone who circulated our CFP, submitted abstracts, and made the time to attend our conference. We hope that this gathering serves as a celebration of graduate student work and offers a sense of community, inspiration, and motivation in this time of isolation.

**Meghan Burry & Jesse Gauthier**

Conference organizers

# FEATURED SPEAKERS

## CONYER CLAYTON

### Keynote address by Conyer Clayton

Friday, May 27, 11:15AM

Conyer Clayton is an award-winning writer, musician, and editor living on unceded Algonquin Anishinaabe land. She is the author of *We Shed Our Skin Like Dynamite* (Guernica Editions, 2020, Winner of the Ottawa Book Award), *But the sun, and the ships, and the fish, and the waves* (A Feed Dog Book by Anvil Press, 2022), and many chapbooks, most recently, *holy disorder of being* (Gap Riot Press, 2022) written collaboratively with VII, of which she is a member. Her collaborative chapbook with Manahil Bandukwala was short-listed for the bpNichol award, and she is the winner of the 2019 Robin Blaser Poetry Prize and the 2017 Diana Brebner Prize. Her poetry, essays, and criticism appear in *Room Magazine*, *filling station*, *Canthus*, *Arc Poetry Magazine*, *CV2*, *The Capilano Review* and others.

# FEATURED SPEAKERS

## DR. NEVENA MARTINOVIĆ

**Plenary talk by Dr. Nevena Martinović**

**"Down here, it's our time': Escape Hatches and Opportunity in Academia, Alt-Academia and Beyond"**

Saturday, May 28, 9:30-10:45AM

Nevena Martinović (she/her) is a theatre history and performance scholar from Toronto, Ontario. Her research primarily focuses on intersections of acting and aging in eighteenth-century British theatre. Her work has been published in *Lumen* and *Theatre Research in Canada* and is forthcoming in the edited collection *English Theatrical Anecdotes, 1660–1800*. She is also at work on a book-length project titled *Aging Actresses and Transgressive Femininity on the Eighteenth-Century Stage*.

Nevena holds a PhD in English Language and Literature from Queen's University. She currently serves as the Education Manager at the Royal Architecture Institute of Canada and teaches at the Royal Military College and Cambrian College in Ontario, Canada.

# SCHEDULE

**FRIDAY, MAY 27 • ALL TIMES IN E.S.T.**

<b>9:15AM</b>	Opening remarks
<b>9:30-11AM</b>	Panel A: Postcolonial Possibilities
<b>11:15AM</b>	Keynote address by Conyer Clayton
<b>1:30-3PM</b>	Panel B: Policing Bodies/Identities
<b>3:15-4:45PM</b>	Panel C: Feminism and Escape
<b>6-8PM</b>	Creative Writing Night

**SATURDAY, MAY 28**

<b>9:30-10:45AM</b>	Plenary talk by Dr. Nevena Martinović
<b>11AM-12PM</b>	Panel D: Geographical Selves
<b>12:30-1:30PM</b>	Social gathering
<b>1:30-2:30PM</b>	Panel E: Knowledge Out of Bounds
<b>2:30PM</b>	Closing remarks

All attendees are welcome to join us between 12:30-1:30PM on Saturday, May 28 for a friendly social session. Topics will range from graduate student life to the works we're reading and the presentations we've heard.

Please feel free to log in and say hello!

# FRIDAY, MAY 27TH

## MORNING SESSIONS

### **9:15AM: Opening remarks**

Meghan Burry & Jesse Gauthier (Queen's University, Canada)

### **9:30-11:00AM: Panel A: Postcolonial Possibilities**

Moderator: Rachel Fernandes (Queen's University, Canada)

Sonakshi Srivastava (Indraprastha University, India)

"Human, All Too Human: An Extra/Ordinary Being, an Escape, and a Probable Mutation"

Brenna MacDougall (Queen's University, Canada)

"Fungus Among Us: Inescapable Entanglement in Jeff VanderMeer's Ambergris Trilogy"

Kathrin Lachenmaier (Universities of Cologne [Germany] and Rochester [USA])

"Inescapable Futures—Resisting the Settler Colonial Logic of Expansion"

### **11:15-12:30PM: Keynote address by Conyer Clayton**

# FRIDAY, MAY 27TH

## AFTERNOON SESSIONS

### **1:30-3PM: Panel B: "Policing Bodies/Identities"**

**Moderator:** Nikta Sadati (Queen's University, Canada)

Gavin Doyle (Washington State University, USA)

"Prison Narratives: Tending to the Past to Escape the Future"

Qazi Mustabeen Noor (Queen's University, Canada)

"Flying in, flying out: Offloading responsibility and blame during COVID 19"

Arundhati Sen (Presidency University, India)

"Locating Resistance in Escape: Recounting Dalit Aspiration in *A Fine Balance* and *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*"

### **3:15-4:45PM: Panel C: "Feminism and Escape"**

**Moderator:** Jessica Caravaggio (Queen's University, Canada)

Ankita Sen (Presidency University, India)

"Escape as Site of Poetic Transformation in Hulu's *Handmaid's Tale*"

Emma Rhodes (Queen's University, Canada)

"Escape Via Women in Two Maritime Texts: Hugh MacLennan's *Each Man's Son* and Donald Shebib's *Goin' Down the Road*"

Bim Peacock (University of Edinburgh, Scotland)

"The Androgynous Sublime: Deconstructing Gendered Notions of Romantic Sublimity"



# FRIDAY, MAY 27TH

## CREATIVE WRITING NIGHT

### **6PM-8PM: Creative Writing Night**

#### **Writing in Movement: Imagined Escapes and Explorations of Freedom**

Moderator: Nikta Sadati (Queen's University, Canada)

Creative Writing Night will feature four graduate student writers and their works, which explore fragmented identities, trauma, and possibilities for escape. In this session, writers will present excerpts of short fiction, poetry, and visual media. These presentations will be followed by an illuminating discussion on the power of imagination, the effort of escape, the failures of justice, and the search for self.

Jake Morrow (Queen's University, Canada)

"Disarticulated: Canadian Jewish Diasporic Poetry"

Taylor Graham (University of Guelph, Canada)

"Cambridge Carrier Bag"

Harjit Dosanjh (University of Regina, Canada)

"The Green Strike"

Waed Hasan (University of Guelph, Canada)

"A Refugee's Shadowbox"

# SATURDAY, MAY 28TH

## MORNING SESSIONS

**9:30-10:45AM: Plenary talk by Dr. Nevena Martinović**

"'Down here, it's our time': Escape Hatches and Opportunity in Academia, Alt-Academia and Beyond"

**11AM-12PM: Panel D: "Geographical Selves"**

Moderator: Kelly McDevitt (Queen's University, Canada)

Zhou Ying (Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong)

"Perfecting my cold dream/Of a place out of time": Derek Mahon's Huts and Sheds"

Sophia Magliocca (Concordia University, Montréal)

"A Study of "Climate" in Pierre Marivaux's *The Island of Slaves* (1725): Tensions Between Social Play and Eighteenth Century Class and Gender (In)Equality"

# SATURDAY, MAY 28TH

## AFTERNOON SESSIONS

### **1:30-2:30PM: Panel E: "Knowledge Out of Bounds"**

Moderator: Michaela Wipond (Queen's University, Canada)

Emily Moyer (Queen's University, Canada)

"Thwarted Escapes: Interpreting the Popular Lyric in the Middle English Sermon"

Taleen Baghdassarian (Concordia University, Montréal)

"Knowledge and Curiosity in *Paradise Lost*: To Escape the Boundaries of the Pursuit Wisdom or to Remain Lowly Wise"

### **2:30PM: Closing remarks**

# CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

## **Conference organizers**

Meghan Burry  
Jesse Gauthier

## **Thematic directors**

Ian Clark  
Emily Moyer  
Jesyka Traynor

## **Speaker selections chair**

Tatiana Jahromi

## **Creative directors**

Nikta Sadati  
Sabrina Zacharias

## **Website and social media**

Valentina Gaio  
Jesyka Traynor

## **Communications and logistics**

Valentina Gaio  
Skylar Kovacs  
Natasha Lomonossoff  
Michael Zhang

## **Selections committee**

Jessica Caravaggio  
Ian Clark  
Jesse Gauthier  
Emily Moyer  
Nikta Sadati  
Jesyka Traynor  
Michael Zhang