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# NEPCA NORTHEAST POPULAR CULTURE ASSOCIATION

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September 2015

NEPCA established 1974

## WHAT IS THIS?



Welcome to *NEPCA News*. This is our first e-newsletter, but it's mostly the same *NEPCA News* you've seen in the past. We've gone to an electronic newsletter for several reasons. NEPCA saves a *lot* of money by not printing a hard copy, but the main reason is that an electronic newsletter is more efficient. Because the old newsletter was 3<sup>rd</sup> class mail, mailing was very undependable. Some members didn't get their newsletters until after the conference was already over. We also wanted to make

the newsletter a complement to our online blog and website, which receives more traffic than the newsletter used to get.

## HOW DO I KNOW IF MY MEMBERSHIP IS UP TO DATE?

We have also streamlined membership. You can always email Executive Secretary Rob Weir ([weir.r@comcast.net](mailto:weir.r@comcast.net)) to check, but it works like this. You are current if:

1. You are a lifetime member or a past president
2. If you have registered for this year's conference
3. If you have mailed a membership fee during the 2015 calendar year.  
(Memberships run October to October)

***Your membership will expire at the end of October*** if you registered for the 2014 conference, but are not attending this year's conference. If you wish to continue receiving *NEPCA News* and wish to continue being a member of NEPCA, you should renew your membership before December 31. You can do so on PayPal from our Website, or you can send a check c/o NEPCA to: Robert E. Weir, NEPCA Executive Secretary, 15 Woods Road, Florence, MA 01062. The fee is \$30 for full-time faculty members and \$15 for all others (retirees, adjuncts, part-time faculty, graduate students, independent scholars)

NEPCA's Website can be accessed at: <https://nepca.wordpress.com/> (This should be a live link.)

## 2015 NEPCA FALL CONFERENCE

NEPCA's annual fall conference will convene on the campus of **Colby-Sawyer College** Friday and Saturday **October 30-31, 2015**. Colby-Sawyer is located in New London, New Hampshire. This newsletter will provide conference information on the following:

- Tentative Conference Schedule
- Travel directions
- Lodging and food suggestions
- Things to do in the New London area
- Issues to be discussed at the 2015 executive council meeting
- Information on NEPCA prize winners
- Links to officers and area chairs
- Links to book reviews
- Links to teaching tips
- A list of NEPCA officers
- Registration forms and membership information

This newsletter will also contain reviews, links to reviews, and other information pertinent to NEPCA members.

## NOTES ON THE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The schedule below is pertinent as of August 31, 2015, though it is subject to change. After you receive this newsletter it will be posted on NEPCA's website (<https://wordpress.nepca.com/>) If you click on the **Fall Conference** tab link you will find the up-to-date schedule as changes and additions take place. We will update periodically in an effort to provide the most reliable information available.

A final schedule will be printed and made available at the registration desk for arriving participants.

**Note to administrators:** The list below reflects only those whose papers have been accepted. NEPCA will publish a list of actual attendees after the conference concludes.

# TENTATIVE 2015 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, October 30, 12:00–5:30 pm  
Thornton Living Room (Colgate Hall)

## Session I: Friday, October 30, 2:30-4:00pm

### **PANEL 1 | IVEY 101 | SPORTS: TEACHING, REPORTING, AND MARKETING SPORTS**

CHAIR: Leslie Campbell, Colby-Sawyer College

*"Sport and (Physical) Culture: From Local to Global"*

Jacob Bustad, Towson University

*"The Marketing of Celebrity in Sport: A Look at the Mark H. McCormack Collection and His Influence on Entertainment"*

Kirstin Kay, University of Massachusetts – Amherst

*"Using Sport to Teach and Enable Social Justice"*

Ryan King-White, Towson University

*"The Donald Stirling and Ray Rice News Stories: TMZ's Role in the Evolution of Sport and Professional Journalism"*

Tyler M. Sigmon, Towson University

### **PANEL 2 | IVEY 106 | AMERICAN LITERATURE & FICTION: CONSTRUCTING BODIES, MINDS, AND IDEAS**

CHAIR: Ann Page Stecker, Colby-Sawyer College

*"Walk With Me: Disability and the Other in The Unnamed"*

Lauren Bell, Boston College

*"'Cooper versus Greeley' and the Transformation of Free Expression"*

Ryan Carr, Yale University

*"The Automobile as Epistemological Question in John O'Hara's Appointment in Samarra"*

Luigi A. Juarez, Brandeis University

### **PANEL 3 | IVEY 109 | FILM & HISTORY: TEXTS, ADAPTATIONS, AND SOUND IN FILM & TELEVISION**

CHAIR: Steven Grossman, Emerson College

*"Variations of the Adaptation of Film Noir to Radio Programming, 1945-1955"*

James R. Belpedio, Becker College

*"The Truth is Uglier than Fiction: 'Million Dollar Baby' and the Story of Katie Dallam"*

Robert Niemi, St. Michael's College

*"'Why, You're Little Men!': Reconceptualizing Walt Disney's Snow White as a Fairy-Tale Narrative for the Depression-Era Worker"*

Brennan Thomas, Saint Francis University

*"Lost in the Hyperobject"*

Randy Laist, Goodwin College

**PANEL 4 | IVEY 201 | SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY, HORROR, AND LEGEND: MAKING MONSTERS**

CHAIR: June-Ann Greeley, Sacred Heart University

*"Imagining Monsters: Contemporary Horror and Cognitive Monstrosity"*

Jack Dudley, Mount Saint Mary's University

*"Butchering Identity: Depictions of Unconscious Repression within The Midnight Meat Train"*

Courtney Peters, Flagler College

*"The Alien Human: Monstrous Humanity in Science Fiction"*

Selena Middleton, McMaster University

*"Are They Among Us? The Battle of Los Angeles and UFO Disclosure"*

Donald Vescio, Worcester State University

**PANEL 5 | CLEVELAND READING ROOM | COMICS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS: RACE, ETHNICITY, AND IDENTITY IN COMICS AND CARTOONS**

CHAIR: Adam Crowley, Husson University

*"Patty-Jo Said It Best: Korean War Editorial Cartoons and Comic Strips in African-American Newspapers, 1950-1953"*

Cory Matieyshen, National University

*"The American Comic: An Individualistic Reconstruction of Old-World Identity"*

Paul Robertson, Colby-Sawyer College

*"Drawing as a Matter of Life or Death: A Narrative Analysis of Alberto Breccia and Juan Sasturain's To Draw or Not To Draw (Dibujar o no)"*

Nayma González, National Autonomous University of Mexico

**Session II: Friday, October 30, 4:15-5:45pm**

**PANEL 6 | IVEY 101 | GENDER, IDENTITY, SEX AND SEXUALITY: GENDER IN POPULAR TELEVISION AND FILM**

CHAIR: Kathleen Farrell, Colby-Sawyer College

*"Stereotypes: Psychological and Physical Representations in Orphan Black"*

Johanna Church, Johnson & Wales University

*"Female Character Development and Agency: It's Not Grimm in Once Upon a Time"*

Amy Neeman, Johnson & Wales University

*"(First) Lady Underwood: Literary Legacies, New Media and Contemporary Contexts"*

Geraldine Wagner, Johnson & Wales University

*"Diaspora and Gender in Sarah Gavron's Brick Lane"*

Saiyeda Khatun, Johnson & Wales University

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**PANEL 7 | IVEY 106 | HEALTH, DISEASE AND CULTURE: OBSERVING SELF, IDENTITY,  
AND DEVELOPMENT IN HEALTH CARE CULTURAL DISCOURSES**

CHAIR: Jennifer Tebbe-Grossman, MCPHS University

*"How to Bring Up Your Kids Autistic: Anti-Vaxxers, Ableism and Liberal Primitivism"*

Ittai Orr, Yale University

*"On the Viewing of Death and Dying"*

Douglas MacLeod, SUNY Cobleskill

*"Building Upon Sand: Destruction and Creation in the Literary Breakdown"*

Carol-Ann Farkas, MCPHS University

**PANEL 8 | IVEY 107 | NORTHEAST STUDIES: URBAN CULTURE AND RURAL FOLKLORE  
FROM THE WEST END TO THE NORTH POND**

CHAIR: Carolyn Fortuna, Rhode Island College

*"In the New West End: From Ashes and Dust a Neighborhood Rises"*

Lois Ascher, Wentworth Institute of Technology

*"Jane Jacobs as Prophet"*

Frank Rooney, Wentworth Institute of Technology

*"Contemporary Topical Song Videos as Broadside Ballads: 'The North Pond Hermit Song' and  
'What the North Pond Hermit Knows'"*

Hilary Warner-Evans, University of Maine

**PANEL 9 | IVEY 109 | SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY, HORROR, AND LEGEND:  
TRANSFORMING THE MONSTER**

CHAIR: Asher Ellis, Colby-Sawyer College

*"C.M. Kornbluth's Postwar American Vampire at the Dawn of the Atomic Age"*

Kristin Bidoshi, Union College

*"Invisible Reflections: Queer Erasure and the Monstrous Visibility of Vampires in Comics"*

Gabriel Morrison, Rhode Island College

*"Super Monsters: Re-Casting Frankenstein in the Superhero Genre"*

Michael A. Torregrossa, Independent Scholar

**PANEL 10 | IVEY 201 | DIGITAL MEDIA & GAMING: ONLINE COMMUNITIES**

CHAIR: Jeffrey P. Cain, Sacred Heart University

*"Mail Art Internet: Subversive Impact of Things"*

Renee Courey and Harley, Columbia Southern University

*"Lending Our Ears: The Evolution of Vicarious Therapy from Radio to Podcasting"*

Kathleen Collins, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY)

*"Audience Labour & Alternative Media: The Work of Digital Resistance"*

Benjamin Anderson, Simon Fraser University

*"Embodying Fantastical Identities in Carnavalesque Communities Online: A Virtual Ethnography  
of Second Life"*

Mike Alvarez, University of Massachusetts – Amherst

Gyuri Kepes, University of Massachusetts – Amherst

Mario Valdebenito, University of Massachusetts – Amherst

**PANEL 11 | CLEVELAND READING ROOM | PRODUCTION, PERFORMANCE, SPECTACLE**

CHAIR: Virginia Cowen, Rutgers University

*"From Mama Mia to Spiderman: The Challenge of Using Popular Culture to Create a New Musical Theater Experience"*

Suzanne Delle, York College of Pennsylvania

*"Passing Out: How Space Functions in the Politics and Performance of Masculinity On and Offstage"*

Mark Broomfield, SUNY Geneseo

*"Masculinity: Dance and Spectacle"*

Gloria Monaghan, Wentworth Institute of Technology

*"Flow and Choreography in Yoga: A Dance Evolution?"*

Virginia Cowen, Rutgers University

***Reception: 6:00-6:45 (Wheeler Hall – Ware Student Center)***

***Saturday Registration, October 31, 8:30–3:30 pm  
Thornton Living Room (Colgate Hall)***

**Session III: Saturday, October 31, 8:45-10:15 am**

**PANEL 12 | IVEY 101 | TELEVISION: POLITICS, ECONOMICS, AND GENDER ON POPULAR TELEVISION**

CHAIR: Carol-Ann Farkas, MCPHS University

*"The Politics of Gender in 'The West Wing'"*

Karen Honeycutt, Keene State College

*"The Neoliberal Expert Consultant in the American Professional Workplace Drama Series"*

David Pierson, University of Southern Maine

*"'Don't Expect Nothing From Your Government': Welfare, Taxes, and the Politics of Economics on the Sitcom All in the Family, 1971-1975"*

Oscar Winberg, Åbo Akademi University

*"The Horrors of Rape on American Cable TV: An Exploration of Rape Narratives in American Horror Story and The Walking Dead"*

Alicia Cross, Concordia University

**PANEL 13 | IVEY 106 | AMERICAN LITERATURE & FICTION**

CHAIR: Mark Madigan, Nazareth College

*"Grief and Longing in the Composition of Queer Identity in Donna Tartt's The Goldfinch"*

Julia Brush, University of New Hampshire

*"Queering the Apocalypse: How Cormac McCarthy's The Road Offers a Possibly Queer Future"*

Nicolette Siclare, Boston College

*"American Cressida"*

Linda Coleman, University of Maryland – College Park

*"Chinese Elements in Female Chinese American Novels: A Case Study of Maxine Hong Kingston and Amy Tan"*

Weiqing Zhang, University of Minnesota – Duluth

**PANEL 14 | IVEY 107 | TEACHING AND POPULAR CULTURE: THE CLASSROOM AS INTERSECTION**

CHAIR: Mark Van Ells, Queensborough Community College

*"Fear the Flag and Hate the History: Teaching the Post-colonial Melancholia"*

Kaustav Mukherjee, Gannon University

*"So, what's wrong with Jim Morrison? Teaching Popular Culture and Native American Studies"*

Meredith James, Eastern Connecticut State University

*"Two Popular Cultures in the Classroom: Hip Hop and Television"*

Karen Taylor, Gardner-Webb University

*"Television Production: How Popular Television Programmes Impact Student Led Production"*

Lucy Brown, University of Greenwich

Lyndsay Duthie, University of Hertfordshire

**PANEL 15 | IVEY 109 | SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY, HORROR, AND LEGEND: RETHINKING HORROR**

CHAIR: Matthew Lerberg, University of Texas at Arlington

*"Where the Wild Things Are: Horror, Atavism, and the Unspeakable"*

Christopher McVey, Boston University

*"The Boogeyman Catalyst: Transformative Fear in the Gothic and Child-like Power in Jennifer Kent's The Babadook"*

Anna Lockhart, Rutgers University – Camden

*"Monstresses: The Representation of the Monstrous Feminine Onscreen"*

Dalina Aimee Perdomo, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

*"The Fallen Angel of the House: Women and Monsters in Penny Dreadful"*

Kavita Mundan Finn, Independent Scholar

**PANEL 16 | IVEY 201 | ETHNIC & RACE STUDIES**

CHAIR: Sally Hirsh-Dickinson, Rivier University

*"Pedagogy that PUSHes"*

Mary Jo McCloskey, Manhattanville College

*"Rail to Rail: Transitions in Life & Labor for Newly-Freed African Americans, Using a Common Narrative Object"*

Benjamin Wendorf, Brandeis University

*"The Importance of Oral and Written Narrative in Puerto Rican Culture"*

Heshima Moja, Puerto Rican Institute for Arts and Advocacy of Rhode Island

*"The Eugenics Movement of the Third Reich"*

Hope M. Reilly, College of Charleston

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## **PANEL 17 | CLEVELAND READING ROOM | POP CULTURE ICONS**

CHAIR: Bob Hackey, Providence College

*"Did You Ever See Anything Like Her?" The Glamorous Nature of Marilyn Monroe"*

Agata Łuksza, University of Warsaw

*"Arthur Ashe, Tennis Icon, Encounters the Golliwog, 'a Nigger,' at English Tournaments in 1975"*

Robert MacGregor, Bishop's University

*"Telling Tales: How to Make a Thug Into a Folk Legend"*

Robert Weir, University of Massachusetts – Amherst

## **Session IV: Saturday, October 31, 10:30-12:00 pm**

## **PANEL 18 | IVEY 101 | DIGITAL MEDIA & GAMING: READING THE TEXTS OF VIDEOGAMES**

CHAIR: Eric Boyer, Colby-Sawyer College

*"Pay to Play: The Fantasy of Exchange in Early Videogame Narratives"*

Adam Crowley, Husson University

*"Wizard 101: Suburbia Goes Colonialist"*

Jeffrey P. Cain, Sacred Heart University

*"Default Settings: Racialized Systems in Game Designs"*

Jennifer Allaway, New York University Game Center

*"The Rhythms of Success and Failure: Criteria for Fan Support in Rhythm Gaming"*

Noah Driftwood Feeman, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

## **PANEL 19 | IVEY 106 | SPORTS: POLITICS & IDENTITY IN THE SPORTS WORLD**

CHAIR: Robert Weir, University of Massachusetts – Amherst

*"Special Olympics / New England"*

Linda Fuller, Worcester State University

*"Millard Lampell: From Football to the Blacklist"*

Dennis Gildea, Springfield College

*"Big Sports Stars"*

Sukrittaya Jukping, Thammasat University

*"Linsanity: Asian American Identity, Basketball, and the Battle Against Stereotypes"*

Taylor Henry, University of Massachusetts – Boston

## **PANEL 20 | IVEY 107 | SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY, HORROR, AND LEGEND: NEWS IDEAS ON SCIENCE FICTION**

CHAIR: Michael A. Torregrossa, Independent Scholar

*"Fans of Bronze: Writers of Fan Letters Printed in Doc Savage Magazine, 1933-1949"*

October Surprise, Independent Scholar

*"Stylometry and the Seldon Crisis: Using Statistics to Categorize Novels in Asimov's Foundation Universe"*

Daniel M. Look, St. Lawrence University

*"Imperial Fictions: Doctor Who, Post-Racial Slavery, and Other liberal Human Fantasies"*

Susana Loza, Hampshire College

*"Female Warrior Heroes from Athena to Agent Carter"*

Cheryl A. Hunter, Southern New Hampshire University

**PANEL 21 | IVEY 109 | WORLD LITERATURE: EXPLORING IDENTITY & AGENCY**

CHAIR: Susan Gorman, MCPHS University

*"Reclaiming Agency: Irish Women, Physical Rebellion, and the Failure of Language in Brian Friel's Translations and Dancing at Lughnasa"*

Megan Crotty, MCPHS University

*"No Accommodation For Immigrant Heroes: The Ethnic Bildungsroman in The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros and The Buddha of Suburbia by Hanif Kureishi"*

Ricardo Quintana Vallejo, Purdue University

*"The Unbearable Weight of Being a Woman in a Milan Kundera Novel"*

Brennah F. Hutchison, Arkansas State University

*"Bless Me Valverde: Religion and the Narco-Traffic in Mexico"*

Randy Hanson, Colby-Sawyer College

**PANEL 22 | IVEY 201 | TELEVISION: THE LANDSCAPE OF REALITY TELEVISION**

CHAIR: Kathleen Collins, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY)

*"Changing the Subject: Acts of Remembrance and Forgetting in Popular Genealogy"*

Matthew Elliott, Emmanuel College

*"I am not dumb, I just like watching 'the dumb': Uses and Gratifications of Watching The Real Housewives"*

Jin Kim, The College of Saint Rose

*"Trash and Treasure: Reality Television, (In)Formal Markets and the Capture of Unruly Aesthetics"*

Sean T. Leavey, Rutgers University

*"Meeting at the Altar: Confronting Reality and Disrupting Romance in Married at First Sight"*

Andi McClanahan, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

**PANEL 23 | IVEY 208 | SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY, HORROR, AND LEGEND: NATURE AND THE UNNATURAL IN THE FANTASTIC**

CHAIR: Deborah Wills, Mount Allison University

*"'Safe at Last in the Wood Outside the Garden': Classic Animal Fantasy and the Environment"*

Amie A. Doughty, SUNY Oneonta

*"Souls of Creation: Trees in Selected Works of J. R. R. Tolkien"*

June-Ann Greeley, Sacred Heart University

*"What's the Use? Man's Search for Purpose in Bradbury's Short Stories"*

Laura A. Brown, SUNY Potsdam

*"Monstrous Machines: Technology, Nature, and the Importance of Balance in Andre Norton's Witch World Novels"*

Kathleen Healey, Worcester State University

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**PANEL 24 | CLEVELAND READING ROOM | GENDER, IDENTITY, SEX AND SEXUALITY:  
REPRESENTING ALTERNATIVE IDENTITIES**

CHAIR: Don Gagnon, Western Connecticut State University

*"The Travesti in Brazilian Fiction and Film"*

Mike Alvarez, University of Massachusetts – Amherst

*"Ned the Nudnik: Queer Jewish Masculinity Troubling Brotherly Love in The Normal Heart"*

R. Gabriel Dor, DePaul University

*"Useless Gay Carmilla, The Heroic Vampire Who Saved Us All: Queer and Feminist Narrative in Carmilla the Webseries"*

Megan Justine Fowler, University of Florida

*"What is not Said in 'Brave New World'"*

Benjamin J. Gross, Boston College

**Saturday, October 31, 12:15–1:30 pm**

**Luncheon and Annual Meeting: Wheeler Hall (Ware Student Center)**

**Session V: Saturday, October 31, 1:45-3:15 pm**

**PANEL 25 | IVEY 101 | HUMOR: THE CHANGING DYNAMICS OF COMEDY ON STAGE  
AND SCREEN**

CHAIR: Virginia Freed, Bay Path College

*"'But I ain't never goin' to forget it': The Charged Folk Humor of Richard Pryor, 1973-1976"*

Ida Yalzadeh, Brown University

*"The Forgotten and the Profuse: An Examination of the Current State of CODCO and Kids in the Hall; Two Canadian Sketch Comedy Programs from the 1980s in the Contemporary Moment"*

Lorinda Ramsay, Concordia University

*"The Friends Are Back in Town: Post-Friends, Post-Modern, Post-Meta Television"*

Rebecca Romanow, University of Rhode Island

**PANEL 26 | IVEY 106 | POLITICS, CIVIL LIFE & POPULAR CULTURE: PUBLIC  
DELIBERATION, PAST AND PRESENT**

CHAIR: Bruce Cohen, Worcester State University

*"Social Writing and Personal Responsibility"*

Kristina Fennelly, Kutztown University

*"Everything Old Is New Again: Greek Drama and the Experience of War"*

Bob Hackey, Providence College

*"Political Rhetoric After National Attacks"*

Megan Ivy, Southern New Hampshire University

*"The Ambition of Politics and Domesticity: The Life and Times of Congressman Jacob Crowninshield"*

Dinah Mayo-Bobee, East Tennessee State University

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**PANEL 27 | IVEY 107 | LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, COLLECTING & PUBLISHING:  
COLLECTIONS, RESOURCES, AND OUTREACH BEYOND THE LIBRARY WALLS**

CHAIR: Sondra VanderPloeg, Colby-Sawyer College

*"Pulp Poets and Superhero Prophets: A Case for a Popular Culture Based Three Credit Class at a Community College"*

William Blick, Queensborough Community College

*"The Filthy Little Atheist Fights the Good Fight: Thomas Paine, Pop Culture, and the Catholic College"*

Scott Cleary, Iona College

*"Moving to the Future or Staying in the Past: Is Social Media Necessary for Your Library?"*

Marla K. Roberson, Greenville Technical College

*"Growing Pains: From Standard Bibliography to Dynamic Web-Accessible Resource, Creating a Repository of Popular and Scientific Writing on Roses Using TEI"*

Julia Tryon, Providence College

**PANEL 28 | IVEY 109 | SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY, HORROR, AND LEGEND: WRITING HORROR**

CHAIR: Amie A. Doughty, SUNY Oneonta

*"'We're Not All Dead Yet': Humor Amid the Horror in James Whale's Bride of Frankenstein"*

Martin F. Norden, University of Massachusetts – Amherst

*"Tales From the Encrypted: Decoding the Index in Mark Z. Danielewski's House of Leaves"*

Deborah Wills, Mount Allison University

*"Hunting the Hunters: Lovecraft's Epistemology and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Monster Hunter"*

Jonathan Elmore, Savannah State University

*"Becoming the Monster: Accepting the Shadow through Monster Erotica"*

Saraliza Anzaldúa, National Taiwan University

**PANEL 29 | IVEY 201 | COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS: GRAPHIC GROTESQUERIE, TRAVESTY, AND DEMOGRAPHY**

CHAIR: Paul Robertson, Colby-Sawyer College

*"Grotesque Femininities and Fairy Tale Mythologies in Bill Willingham's Fable Series"*

Sarah Elizabeth Camp, Old Dominion University

*"The Imagination of a Juvenile Delinquent: Psychiatry and Comic Books, 1940-1954"*

Dennis Doyle, St. Louis College of Pharmacy

*"Gritty Levity: The Giffen-Dematteis Era of the Justice League"*

Charles Henebry, Boston University

**PANEL 30 | IVEY 208 | HEALTH, DISEASE AND CULTURE: PERCEPTIONS OF THE SELF**

CHAIR: Rick Shifley, MCPHS University

*"How Do Chiropractors Perceive Themselves in the Health Care System?"*

Haiying Kong and Julia Bradley, Grand Valley State University

*"Effective Patient Communication: Understanding Traiteur, Hoodoo, Vodou, and Santeria/Regla de Ocha Traditions"*

Christine Parkhurst, MCPHS University

*"We Are What We Eat: Food and Beverages as Non-Verbal Communication Devices"*  
Bethann Bark Wolfe, Suffolk County Community College

**PANEL 31 | CLEVELAND READING ROOM | GENDER, IDENTITY, SEX AND SEXUALITY:  
ON BEAUTY, ROMANCE, AND EROTICA**

CHAIR: Andi McClanahan, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

*"The Wild Life: Assessing the Postmodern Sheen of Girlhood in Spring Breakers and The Bling Ring"*

James B. Carolus, Rhode Island College

*"Cold War, Hot Bodies: The Asian American Beauty Pageant of the Early Cold War Era"*

Rebecca Covey, Northwestern University

*"You are where I want you to be': (Guilty) Un/Pleasure in Erotica and Popular Romance"*

Sara K. Howe, Southern New Hampshire University

*"No More Fabio: Publishing Strategies in Popular Romance Historical Fiction Novels"*

Colleen Etman, College of Charleston

**Session VI: Saturday, October 31, 3:30-5:00 pm**

**PANEL 32 | IVEY 101 | TEACHING AND POPULAR CULTURE: HEROES, VILLAINS, AND  
ICONS IN THE CLASSROOM**

CHAIR: Robert Niemi, St. Michael's College

*"Deconstructing Disney: Scaffolded Instruction and Digital Research Posters"*

Carolyn Fortuna, Rhode Island College

*"The Gender of the Superhero Comic Book Classroom"*

Christopher McGunnigle, University of Louisiana – Lafayette

*"Cartoons in the Classroom: J. R. Bray and the Origins of Educational Animation"*

Brian Oakes, Kean University

**PANEL 33 | IVEY 106 | FILM & HISTORY: FILMS THAT SHAPE VIEWERS' PERCEPTIONS**

CHAIR: Carol Mitchell, Springfield College

*"Islamophobia, Propaganda, and War: The Problem with American Sniper"*

Quinn Ochoa-Morales, Western Connecticut State University

*"More Than They Programmed: New Materialism and Post-Humanism in Spike Jonze's Her"*

Taylor Stevenson, Boston College

*"The Star Wars Effect: Creating a Culture of Imagination"*

Ron Samul, Mitchell College

*"My Name is Conrade: Homoeroticism and Gender Coding in Joss Whedon's Much Ado About Nothing"*

Amber Pettell, Independent Scholar

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**PANEL 34 | IVEY 107 | FOOD CULTURES / CULTURES OF FOOD**

CHAIR: Ann Kordas, Johnson & Wales University

*"'You've Given Me Everything I Need': The Analysis of Food as a Window into Mother-Daughter Relationships Through Gilmore Girls"*

Elizabeth Gaitskill, Providence College

*"Just Desserts: Gender, Race, and Ice Cream in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century America"*

Ann Kordas, Johnson & Wales University

*"Pierogi: The Americanization of the Polish Dumplingumpling"*

Caryn Neumann, Miami University of Ohio

*"Chawahka, Fry Bread, and Jambalaya"*

Jay Precht, Penn State – Fayette

**PANEL 35 | IVEY 109 | SPORTS: THEN & NOW**

CHAIR: James P. Hanlan, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

*"'When You Were Actually Good At Video Games': NHL 14, Nostalgia and Masculinity"*

Sean Ahern, University at Buffalo (SUNY)

*"The End of an Era: The 1925 Dartmouth College Football Team and the Transformation of College Football"*

Derek Catsam, University of Texas of the Permian Basin

*"American Polo: The 30s, 80s, and the Ushering of Change"*

Benjamin Rose, University of Central Oklahoma

*"Major League Soccer's Failed Expansion attempt in Edmond, Oklahoma, and the Renovation of the UCO's Wantland Stadium from 2002-2005"*

Patrick H. Salkeld, University of Central Oklahoma

**PANEL 36 | IVEY 201 | TELEVISION: HUMOR, HISTORY, AND THE SUPERNATURAL ON THE SMALL SCREEN**

CHAIR: Peter Holloran, Worcester State University

*"Bad Boys in Blue: Translating Inspector Backstrom from Nordic Noir to Fox TV"*

Steven Gonzagowski, Rutgers University

*"The Vikings: Historical or Pulp Fiction"*

Gypsy Elaine Teague, Clemson University

*"The Fantasy Soap Opera: Supernatural Melodrama and the Changing Import of the Family"*

Michael D. High, Fordham University

**PANEL 37 | IVEY 208 | WORLD LITERATURE: COLONIALISM, POST-COLONIALISM, AND NEO-COLONIALISM IN LITERATURE**

CHAIR: Susan Gorman, MCPHS University

*"Rewriting the Journey, Rewriting the Hero: Tierno Monenembo's Le roi du Kahel"*

Susan Gorman, MCPHY University

*"Countering History as an Indo in Indonesia and a Mulatto in Martinique: A Comparative Analysis of The Weaverbirds by Y. M. Mangunwijaya and Texaco by Patrick Chamoiseau"*

Shaffira D. Gayatri, University of Warwick

*“What Redeems It Is the Idea Only”: Joseph Conrad and the Possibility of Redemption for Neo-colonial Corporate America in Angel and Faith Season 10”*

Jessica Hautsch, Suffolk County Community College

**PANEL 38 | CLEVELAND READING ROOM | SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY, HORROR, AND LEGEND: RE-WRITING HORROR**

CHAIR: Lance Eaton, North Shore Community College

*“Evil that Devours: Modern Re-imaginings of the Wendigo”*

Elizabeth J. Nielsen, University of Massachusetts – Amherst

*“Transformation and the Big Bad Wolf: Rupturing the Human/Animal Binary in Fables and Grimm”*

Matthew Lerberg, University of Texas at Arlington

*“The Four Texts of World War Z: Unity, Violence, and Transformative Vulnerability”*

Eric Boyer, Colby-Sawyer College

**Saturday, October 31, 5:15-6:15 pm NEPCA Executive Council Meeting: Site TBA**

**Executive Council Meeting Topics:**

- Election of Executive Council members and officers
- Discussion of future sites
- Report on finances
- Vote on bylaw change to reserve one executive council seat for a current graduate student (one-year renewal term)
- Appoint new members for the Rollins Book Award committee
- Appoint new members for the Mitchell and St. Germain graduate paper committees
- Appoint any needed are chairs
- Evaluation of the Google forms process for tracking submissions
- Need to get more information from Google forms to Executive Secretary for data base purposes (Can we do this on PayPal as well?)

**DIRECTIONS and PRATICAL INFORMATION**

(Thanks 2015 local arrangements chair **Kate Turcotte**)

**DIRECTIONS:**

**By car:**

Campus address: 541 Main Street, New London, NH

Traveling north on Interstate 89:

- Exit 11, turn right off of exit to New London.
- Proceed one mile and turn left onto Route 114/Main Street
- College will be on your right as you enter town.

Traveling south on Interstate 89:

- Exit 12, turn left off of exit to New London.
- Follow Newport Rd. about 2.5 miles through town. You will travel through a roundabout approximately 2 miles down Newport Road; take the second exit on the roundabout (straight) and continue on Newport Road.

- Bear right onto Main Street/Route 114 and follow another mile.
- College will be on your left.

#### **By bus:**

**Dartmouth Coach** <http://www.dartmouthcoach.com> offers transportation directly from Boston (South Station and Logan Airport) to New London. The New London stop is about three miles from campus. When you board the bus, it is advised that you inform the driver that New London is your stop. Additionally, Dartmouth Coach recently began to service New York City; the bus does not drop off in New London when traveling from New York, however, so a rental car is recommended if arriving on the New York bus into the town of Lebanon, NH – about 25 minutes from campus.

If travelling from Boston via Dartmouth Coach and needing transportation to your accommodations/campus, send an email to local arrangements chair, [kate.turcotte@colby-sawyer.edu](mailto:kate.turcotte@colby-sawyer.edu) with your arrival day and time, as a NEPCA/Colby-Sawyer representative should be able to meet you at the stop within a reasonable period. Attendees will also have no trouble finding someone associated with the conference for the return trip to meet the bus.

#### **By train:**

Scheduled **Amtrak** train service <http://www.amtrak.com/northeast-train-routes> is available from the eastern seaboard to Boston. The Amtrak stop closest to the Colby-Sawyer campus, Claremont, NH, is about a 40-minute drive. From Boston, attendees are able to use the Dartmouth Coach bus for transportation directly to New London (please see Dartmouth Coach information above). From Claremont, it is easiest to rent a car and drive approximately 30 minutes to New London.

#### **By air:**

Flights into Boston, MA (Logan Airport) or Manchester, NH are both reasonable options. From Logan Airport, attendees are able to use the Dartmouth Coach bus for transportation directly to New London (please see Dartmouth Coach information above). If flying into Manchester, it is easiest to rent a car and drive to New London (one hour).

### **Where to Stay:**

#### **THE NEW LONDON INN**

353 Main Street, New London

603.526.2791

<http://www.thenewlondoninn.com>

Traditional inn just down the street from campus. All rooms are 10% off and start at \$148 for NEPCA presenters and attendees. Unfortunately, online discount booking is not available; call the inn and mention NEPCA to obtain special rate.

#### **THE FAIRWAY MOTEL at LAKE SUNAPEE COUNTRY CLUB**

344 Andover Road, New London

603.526.0202

<http://www.fairwaymotel.net>

Motor inn five minutes from campus. Rates start at \$115, please call motel directly if you wish to stay only one night (Two-night weekend minimum will be waived for conference attendees). One pet-friendly room available.

**THE INN at PLEASANT LAKE**

853 Pleasant Street, New London  
800.626.4907  
<http://www.innatpleasantlake.com>

Upscale bed and breakfast five minutes from campus. Rates start at \$169.

**THE LAMPLIGHTER MOTOR INN**

34 Newport Road, New London  
603.526.6484

Motor inn five minutes from campus. Rates start at \$99.

**BLUE GOOSE INN B&B**

24 Route 103, Newbury  
603.763.5519  
<http://www.bluegooseinn2.com>

Small bed and breakfast 15 minutes from campus. Rates start at \$130. One pet-friendly room available.

**LAKE INN AT MOUNT SUNAPEE**

1349 Route 103, Newbury  
603.763.2701  
<http://www.lakeinnsunapee.com>

Motor inn with all rooms overlooking Lake Sunapee, 15 driving minutes from the Colby-Sawyer campus. \$89; contact motel directly for this rate. Pet-friendly rooms available.

**SUNAPEE LAKE LODGE**

1403 Route 103, Sunapee  
603.763.2010/800.606.5253  
<http://www.sunapeelakelodge.com>

Hotel at the base of Mount Sunapee with indoor pool and fitness center. Fifteen driving minutes from campus. Pet-friendly hotel. Rates start at \$159.

**KING HILL INN**

499 Andover Road, New London  
603. 877.0063  
<http://www.kinghillinn.com>

Upscale inn on five acres, two miles from campus. Rates start at \$175.



### Area Attractions

- Mount Kearsage Indian Museum is located in nearby Warner, NH
- It is 27 miles to the Enfield Shaker Village in Enfield, NH
- Hanover, NH (Home to Dartmouth College and Hood Museum of Art) is 30 miles away
- Walpole, NH and Bellows Falls, VT are on the way for those approaching from the south. Walpole is home to Burdick's Chocolate (partly owned by Ken Burns) and Bellows Falls is an up-and-coming arts center.
- Also on the way to and from (south) are Windsor, VT (world's longest covered bridge) and Cornish, NH (site of the Augustus Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site)
- Those coming from the east (Boston, Providence) will pass through Manchester and Concord, NH. Manchester has the wonderful Currier Art Museum and Concord is the state capitol with sights including the estates of Franklin Pierce and Mary Baker Eddy

### REMINDER: NO CREDIT CARDS ON SITE!

**If you are registering at the conference, fees must be paid by personal check, bank check, money order, or in cash.** NEPCA does *not* accept credit cards. If you'd like to use a credit card, you can use PayPal, but this must be done *before* you arrive at the conference.

### ROLLINS BOOK PRIZE

The winner of the Peter C. Rollins Prize for the best book on popular or American culture published in 2014 is: **Thomas Stubblefield** for *911 and the Visual Culture of Disaster*. The book is published by Indiana University Press. You can access the IUP link by going to:  
[http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/product\\_info.php?cPath=1037\\_1098&products\\_id=807426](http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/product_info.php?cPath=1037_1098&products_id=807426)

Thomas Stubblefield is an assistant professor of art history at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. He will be awarded a cash prize and certificate at NEPCA's fall conference in October.

NEPCA thanks the 2014 Rollins Prize Committee: **Jeff Cain** (Sacred Heart), **Andrea McClanahan** (East Stroudsburg State) and **Virginia Cowen** (Rutgers). Professor Cowen chairs the committee.

NEPCA also wishes to acknowledge that though there can be a single Rollins Prize winner, the committee deliberated long and hard and hard the following fine works on its short list before picking the winner:

Charles Seife,	<i>Virtual Unreality</i> (Viking)
Chris Smith,	<i>The View from the Back of the Band</i> (University of North Texas Press)
Kimberly C. Davis,	<i>Beyond the White Negro: Empathy and Anti-Racist Reading</i> (University of Illinois Press)

Mariah Adin, *The Brooklyn Thrill-Kill Gang and the Great Comic Book Scare of the 1950s*,  
(Praeger)  
Matthew Hughey, *The White Savior Film: Content, Critics, and Consumption*  
(Temple University Press)

Nominations are now open for the 2015 Rollins Prize. Publishers should consult the NEPCA Website for details. Please note: Only publishers can only nominate books for the Rollins Prize; if you have published a book in 2015 and wish it to be considered for the 2015 Rollins Prize, please ask your publisher to consult <https://nepca.wordpress.com/nepca-prizes/> for details. Winners receive a cash prize and a certificate.

Edited collections, reference works, and original creative works (novels, plays, etc.) are ineligible for the Rollins Prize.

## GRADUATE-STUDENT PAPER AWARD

NEPCA is pleased to announce its two graduate student paper awards for outstanding papers presented at the 2014 conference in Providence, RI:

Winner of the Carol Mitchell Graduate Student Essay Prize: **Amelie Daigle**, for "The Translation of the Imagined Community in Raja Rao's KANTHAPURA"

Winner of the Amos St. Germain Graduate Student Essay Prize: **Jana Andrews** for "Identifying Frankenstein's Creature in Nature"

The members of the 2014 committee were: **Amos St. Germain**, Chair (Wentworth Institute of Technology), **Carol Mitchell** (Springfield College), **Margaret Wiley** (Colby-Sawyer College), **Bruce Cohen** (Worcester State University), **Andi McClanahan**, (East Stroudsburg University).

Graduate students attending this year's conference should contact their session chair to be eligible for the 2014 prize. *The session chairs must nominate papers.*

## REGISTRATION WINNER:

NEPCA is pleased to announce that the winner of our early registration prize drawing is **Nicolette Siclare** of Boston College, who will receive her swag bag at the conference.

## DECISIONS MADE IN 2014

The following decisions were made at the Executive Council meeting in October 2014.

- Program Chair Robert Hackey was congratulated for hosting the largest NEPCA meeting in recent memory. A total of 178 papers were delivered
- Bob Hackey was appointed new president of NEPCA by acclamation.
- Andrea McClanahan was elected to the Executive Council to take the expiring seat of Carol Mitchell

- Colby-Sawyer College was selected for the 2015 conference and Kraig Larkin was appointed as Program Chair.
- NEPCA's experiment using PayPal for registration was proclaimed successful. Nearly 70% of all registrants used the site.
- After extensive discussion the Council decided to discontinue *NEPCA News* as a print publication and move it online. This was done after a Survey Monkey poll that showed that 8 of ten members went to either the Website or Facebook to find conference information or updates on the organization. A very small number of members felt that a print version was at all relevant.
- The Council voted to divert production, design, printing, and postage costs to creating a second prize for an outstanding graduate student paper.
- In honor of two longtime NEPCA colleagues the Council voted to name the graduate student paper prizes the Carol Mitchell Graduate Student Paper Prize and the Amos St. Germain Graduate Student Paper Prize.
- NEPCA is now indemnified by the Hanover Insurance firm.
- The Council voted to experiment with Google forms to improve the flow of conference submissions.
- Lance Eaton was appointed as Social Media Strategist.

## UPDATE YOUR INFO

Has your e-mail or mailing address changed? Have you changed jobs? If your e-mail or “snail mail” address has changed, please let us know so we can update our database. Send a short email to: [weir.r@comcast.net](mailto:weir.r@comcast.net)

## FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS—NEPCA 2016 CONFERENCE

NEPCA's 2016 conference will return to New Hampshire—southern New Hampshire that is. As of this writing the date has not yet been set, but NEPCA will convene at **Keene State University** in Keene, NH. Keene is a lively town very close to Brattleboro, Vermont and to the border with Massachusetts.

A Google document will appear on NEPCA's Website in November and you can register using that form. You may also contact Karen Honeycutt for information: [khoneycutt@keene.edu](mailto:khoneycutt@keene.edu)

If you have questions about whether your proposal is appropriate, ask a NEPCA Area Chair. A list of area chairs is listed on the Website, or by clicking this link:

<https://nepca.wordpress.com/fall-conference/nepca-area-chairs/>

If you'd like to be an area chair and/or propose a new area, please contact Rob Weir: [weir.r@comcast.net](mailto:weir.r@comcast.net)

## THE CULTURED CLASSROOM

*If you have an example of a successful classroom lesson or strategy involving the use of popular and/or American culture, please share it with your colleagues. Contact [weir.r@comcast.net](mailto:weir.r@comcast.net)*

For a look at how "Zeitgeist" novels about the 1990s look more than a decade later see: <https://nepca.wordpress.com/2015/04/21/zeitgeist-novels-for-those-teaching-the-1990s/>

For an analysis of whether Tom Brokaw's *Boom* is still useful for teaching the 1960s see <https://nepca.wordpress.com/2014/12/31/can-flawed-books-be-good-teaching-tools/>

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Book reviews** are actively sought for the peer-reviewed online journal. Contact Rob Weir if you'd like to write one (or more!): [weir.r@comcast.net](mailto:weir.r@comcast.net) Below are two current reviews, including the 2014 Rollins Prize winner. If you scroll below the second review you will also see a list of all the books reviewed since the 2014 conference with live links to those reviews:

**9/11 and the Visual Culture of Disaster, by Thomas Stubblefield, Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2015.**



**Editor's Note: *This book won NEPCA's 20014 Peter Rollins Prize for the best new work on popular/American culture.***

In his first book, Thomas Stubblefield, an art historian at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, explores the importance of visual representations of 9/11 by focusing on what we are able to see in photographs, films, monuments, and graphic novels. More significant is how Stubblefield opens the eyes of his readers to the importance of the *invisible* lurking within various media forms presenting the visual culture of disaster. Stubblefield explains that he “centers on the paradox of the visual culture of 9/11, which both foregrounds the image and the visual experience in general and at the same time steeps the events of that day in absence, erasure, and invisibility” (38).

Throughout the book, Stubblefield provides thorough analyses of the visible and hidden representations of disaster by taking the reader on a journey through various mediums. He begins his analysis by reviewing 9/11 as seen through photography. Many individuals forget that 2001 was a transitional year in photography—one in which digital photography was beginning to gain popularity, but many people still used film cameras to capture the world around them. This border of the immediate and the delayed image created a unique experience in the visual representations we have of the events of 9/11. We have images that are immediate and camcorder videos that captured the events of the day punctuated by commentary from regular citizens behind the lens. However, we also have delayed images that did not follow the events succinctly, as well as material from those who unknowingly captured some of the events of the day. Stubblefield writes of still cameras and 9/11, “[T]he wound simply breathes smoke through regular intervals of the camera, which remains unfazed by what it records” (119).

Moving from photography to film, Stubblefield presents a thorough analysis of the image of the now iconic “Falling Man” by Richard Drew. He muses upon the historical context of images of the fall and how these can be interpreted in photography as well as in the moving image. Stubblefield’s discussion of empty cities in photography and film is

remarkable in helping the reader understand how artists create an agency that is felt by the viewer through the absence of images. He explains, “[A]gency is necessarily transferred to the viewer, who is asked to intervene, in essence, repopulate the city” (92). Further, “the viewer’s exclusion from the image comes to turn upon itself, producing subjectivity by way of a traumatic encounter with the otherness of the apparatus” (118).

Stubblefield concludes his book with discussions of monuments and graphic novels and how these relate to the visual culture of disaster. He provides a unique critical view of Art Spiegelman’s *In the Shadow of No Towers*. Most commentators have utilized trauma studies when viewing Spiegelman’s work, but Stubblefield allows us to engage the graphic novel from a visual perspective. Stubblefield expertly deals with Michael Arad’s memorial *Reflecting Absence* at the site of the World Trade Center. Waiting until the end of the text to deal with the memorial was appropriate, as Stubblefield moved the reader to a full understanding of the pervasiveness of the absence of images before discussing the memorial created to reflect the absence of the Twin Towers.

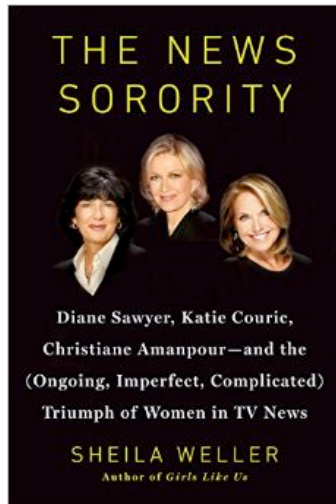
Stubblefield’s book covers so much ground that a reader might have felt lost and disconnected were it not for his skillful and succinct writing. Stubblefield expertly builds his argument for the analysis of visual culture of disaster including the necessity of looking at what is not present in the various images we have consumed since 9/11. Older ways of viewing are pervasively connected to emergent ways of perceiving the present—a duality we must grasp in order to understand fully 9/11 the connections between 9/11, images, and subjective reactions to disaster. Stubblefield’s arguments are meticulously grounded in theory and his extensive discussions of prior research into the visual culture of disaster are helpful in contemplating new paradigms for disaster research.

This is a must-read for those interested in visual imagery; indeed, parts of *9/11 and the Visual Culture of Disaster* expand our thinking in promising ways. Scholars in the area of visual culture and visual rhetoric will find Stubblefield’s book particularly useful in broadening the discussion of what is not present in media images and what they tell us about what is present. Advanced undergraduate or graduate students would benefit from reading Stubblefield’s book as he expertly utilizes theory and provides an exemplary template for how to conduct an insightful analysis. The use of this book in advanced undergraduate or graduate courses would help facilitate dynamic classroom discussions.

**Andi M. McClanahan**  
**East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania**

**[Continues next page]**

***The News Sorority: Diane Sawyer, Katie Couric, Christiane Amanpour—and the (Ongoing, Imperfect, Complicated) Triumph of Women in TV News.* By Sheila Weller. New York: Penguin Press, 2014.**



It should come as no surprise that people who seem warm, friendly, strong, confident, courageous, and even admirable on the television screen are—in their lives off the set—often egomaniacal and insecure. Nonetheless, perusing Sheila Weller’s book about three of the most famous female newscasters of the past thirty plus years quickly becomes an object lesson in just how narcissistic and self-serving broadcast journalists of either gender can be. Weller has done students of popular culture the favor of digging through the muck of her protagonists’ personal and professional lives and raking it into three neat little piles. Two of these heaps of sludge are quite similar in size and consistency, while the third is altogether different, formed of a genuine moral and intellectual endeavor that eschews mere celebrity in service to a sense of mission and purpose.

Weller’s method was to conduct extensive interviews, not with Christiane Amanpour, Katie Couric, and Diane Sawyer, but with their associates in the TV news business and their personal friends. To be sure, Weller sought to interview the principals, but when two declined the request, she decided, in the interest of balance, not to do only one. If the result seems more than a tad gossipy, it could hardly have been otherwise. Not to grant this book judgment according to its own project would be grossly unfair. Weller says, in her acknowledgements, that her work is “journalistic rather than narrative nonfiction” (437). As such, she attempts to let her sources tell the story, rather than imposing a descriptive arc of her own.

This procedure makes the whole experience of the prose much more direct for the reader. Although the early pages have a slight warning tinge of hagiography in the form of a “small-town girl makes it big in the city” meme, the latter two-thirds display Weller pulling no punches. Thus, if Katie Couric’s valiant disdain at having been rejected when she applied to Smith College (she went to the University of Virginia—so there!) comes across as star-struck praise of plucky rags-to-riches bravado, the frank description later on of her annoying daily tardiness at the *Today* set leaves readers free to make their own judgments. Much the same is true of Weller’s tales about Diane Sawyer who, arriving on the scene a bit earlier than Couric, had to transcend her status as the winner of the America’s Junior Miss Pageant and fight all the harder for professional traction suitable to second-wave feminism. Weller intimates that Sawyer only entered the contest for the scholarship money and really won by writing a poem about the Civil War.

Perhaps the epitome of comparisons in the book is a scene that dates from the war for “gets” (exclusives), in which the belligerents—Sawyer and Couric—competed for several years, as *Good Morning America* made an unavailing attempt to overtake *Today*



in the ratings. This battle apparently descended to moments of personal animus. One day, upon learning that Sawyer had scored an exclusive with Aleta St. James, who had given birth to twins at age 57, Katie Couric said, loud enough for all in the control booth to hear, “I wonder who she blew *this* time to get it” (293). Priceless, this image of “girl-next-door” Katie in an unabashedly real moment. She must be great fun in person.

Christiane Amanpour, however, comes off very differently than Sawyer and Couric. One has the impression that there is simply nothing petty or self-aggrandizing about her: not much muck to rake. Unless, of course, you count her pique at not being given the kind of show Fareed Zakaria eventually anchored. Amanpour has spent her life going to the most dangerous places in the world, risking her life for incredibly important hard news, and advocating for human rights whenever she has a legitimate opportunity. She even put off getting married and having a child until the last moment; doing so, she knew, might impinge on her frenetic life of hard work and intellectual integrity. Amanpour emerges as the only really strong thinker in the group, a living testimonial to the now somewhat outdated argument that journalists are members of the intelligentsia.

*The News Sorority* is not then an academic book, a fact that makes it both more and less useful to students of popular culture than it might have been. In a work that maintains pretensions to feminist significance, no cogent theoretical approach obtains. Weller herself seems to be firmly rooted in second-wave feminist thought. Nonetheless, many of the passages about the three women’s use of their femininity to get ahead in the struggle with patriarchy have a third-wave vibe. The bad guys (Dan Rather is the alpha male) go down in part because Katie Couric and Diane Sawyer are physically and emotionally attractive women. Their charm and beauty have a positive effect on their careers and their ratings. That they are also—especially Amanpour—adept women of great substance simply bolsters their third-wave feminist stature. Too, it’s a very enjoyable read; the raw materials for a serious feminist response to the text are all there. *The News Sorority* is bound for a strong showing in the indexes of books in the field of media studies, and as such, it is invaluable.

**Jeffrey P. Cain**  
**Sacred Heart University**

### Other Reviews Published since October 2014

***The Civil War in 50 Objects*** by Harold Holzer: Useful for those interested in how material culture can be used in teaching <https://nepca.wordpress.com/2014/10/30/the-civil-war-in-50-objects/>

***Dungeons and Dreamers*** by Brad King and John Borland: A look at how computer games create a global community <https://nepca.wordpress.com/2015/01/07/dungeons-dreams-review/>

***Black Baseball Entrepreneurs*** by Michael Lomax: Part two of Lomax's look at the business side of African American baseball, this one looking at the years 1902-1931 <https://nepca.wordpress.com/2015/05/29/the-business-side-of-black-baseball/>

**Tinseltown** by William Mann: A look at the unsolved Hollywood murder of director Billy Taylor in 1922 and a searing analysis of the sex, drugs, and crime embedded in Roaring Twenties movie culture <https://nepca.wordpress.com/2015/06/03/who-killed-billy-taylor-hollywood-in-the-1920s/>

**Virtual Unreality** by Charles Seife: An analysis of what's new and what's old when it comes to scams, how the internet exacerbates the problem, and what you can do to reduce your risk of being duped <https://nepca.wordpress.com/2015/07/04/online-scams-it-pays-to-be-skeptical/>

**The Sitcom Class Wars** by Ray Starman: An inventory and interpretation of how social class was represented in 20<sup>th</sup> century sitcoms <https://nepca.wordpress.com/2015/07/04/social-class-and-sitcoms/>

**(Re)Presenting Wilma Rudolph** by Rita Liberti and Maureen M. Smith: A look at how the famed black Olympian's true biography was appropriated by just about everyone except Ms. Rudolph herself <https://nepca.wordpress.com/2015/07/13/important-new-look-at-wilma-rudolph/>

**Star Trek and History** edited by Nancy Reagin: What can we learn about the past as imagined in a science fiction franchise set in the 23<sup>rd</sup> century? <https://nepca.wordpress.com/2015/08/26/star-trek-and-history-needs-sharper-focus/>

## FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

NEPCA is a nonprofit organization registered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Our operating expenses come from conference fees, membership dues, and your donations. If you'd like to make a donation (tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law) please mail a check to: NEPCA, c/o Robert Weir, Executive Secretary, 15 Woods Road, Florence, MA 01062.

## NEPCA ARCHIVE

NEPCA maintains an archive of past *NEPCA News* issues at Worcester Polytechnic Institute library. These include print copies from NEPCA's inception through 2014. The newsletter is now online and can be accessed from the website. If you have materials you think should be archived, please contact Rob Weir: [weir.r@comcast.net](mailto:weir.r@comcast.net) Those seeking to access archived NEPCA materials should contact: Archivist, W. P. I., Gordon Library, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609.

## MEMBER ACTIVITIES

For updates on what NEPCA members have been doing, consult [nepca.wordpress.com](https://nepca.wordpress.com) and select **NEPCA News Flashes** from the pull-down menu.

**Your Accomplishments:** Please let NEPCA know if you've published a book or an article, presented a paper, won an award, or gotten a promotion so we can share the news with your friends and colleagues.

## NORTHEAST POPULAR CULTURE/ AMERICAN CULTURE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	2013-14	Robert Hackey (Providence College)
<b>Past President</b>	2012-13	Jennifer Tebbe-Grossman (MCPHS)
<b>Executive Secretary/Editor</b>		Robert Weir (UMass-Amherst)
<b>Social Media Strategist</b>		Lance Eaton (Essex Community College)
<b>Program Chair 2015 Conference</b>		Kraig Larkin (Colby-Sawyer College)
<b>Executive Council</b> [term expires]		Andi McClanahan (East Stroudsburg University [2017]) David Tanner (MCPHS) [2015] James Hanlan (WPI) [2015] Lance Eaton (Essex Community College) [2016] Virginia Cowen (Univ. of Dentistry of NJ) [2016] Robert Niemi (St. Michael's College) [2016] Don Gagnon (Western Ct. State) [2016]

See the NEPCA Website for a list of past presidents and past conference sites:  
<https://nepca.wordpress.com/past-presidents/>

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**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**Colby-Sawyer College**

NAME .....

MAILING ADDRESS.....

.....

ZIP CODE .....

CELL PHONE.....

E-MAIL.....

MEMBERSHIP: NEW..... RENEWAL..... (Check One)

AFFILIATION & RANK .....

SPECIALIZATION.....

**FEES:**

Payable by check by **October 10** (if not on the program) to: **Robert E. Weir, Ph.D. NEPCA Executive Secretary, 15 Woods Road, Florence, MA 01062** If paying by PayPal, you can register up until midnight of October 20.

**NOTE: Fees paid on site must be by *personal check* or in *cash*. NEPCA cannot process credit card or PayPal transactions at the conference.**

( ) CONFERENCE, MEMBERSHIP and LUNCH REGISTRATION by  
mail.....\$100; In person \$110  
*Fees for full-time faculty*

( ) CONFERENCE, MEMBERSHIP, and LUNCH REGISTRATION by  
mail.....\$75 ; In person \$85  
*Fees for adjuncts, graduate students, independent scholars, retirees*

( ) LIFE or INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP.....\$150

( ) NEPCA FUND CONTRIBUTION (tax deductible).....\$.....

( ) Deduct dues if you have paid for the calendar year or if you are a lifetime member. The part of your registration that goes to dues is \$30 for full-time academics and \$15 for all others. Those who have already paid dues and you wish to pay the full amount will automatically have their dues applied to the next membership cycle.

**TOTAL CHECK (IN US FUNDS).....\$.....**