Why Write?

The Hall Center’s Humanities Lecture Series features a second major creative writer in three weeks as KU welcomes acclaimed author Zadie Smith to Lawrence. Smith will speak on Thursday, 1 December, at 7:30 pm in the Kansas Union Ballroom. The title of the presentation is “Why Write? An Evening with Zadie Smith.” Smith’s novel White Teeth (2000) won the Whitbread First Novel Award and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. On Beauty, her third novel, was a finalist for the Man Booker Prize and won the 2006 Orange Prize for fiction. A new novel, Swing Time, her fifth, was published last week. Smith is also a prolific essayist. In 2011, she joined the Senior Creative Writing Faculty in the English Department at New York University. Besides fiction writing, her research interests are literary and cultural criticism. Hall Center publicity states that, “in this lecture, Smith will explore what it is to write, and why writing remains important. What is the purpose of writing ‘creatively’? Have the reasons changed over time? What can aspiring writers do to convince themselves that serious writing – in a world full of distractions – is still worth doing? What kind of writing is needed in the 21st century? She will also read from and explore parts of Swing Time.”

Inclusive Climate

The entire KU Department of English will gather for a workshop on creating an inclusive climate on Friday, 2 December, from 3:00-5:00 pm, in the Big XII Room of the Kansas Union. All faculty and staff (of all ranks and FTE) and graduate students are required to attend. The workshop is a follow-up to the recently-completed University of Kansas climate survey and the Department’s previous retreats on diversity and inclusion held by the Senior Staff and SAGE. If you simply cannot be there on 12/2, please contact Professor Neill as soon as possible (if you have not already done so). An alternate session is being planned for those who have unalterable commitments. Light refreshments will be provided in the adjoining Jayhawk Room following the workshop.

Publications

Atkins, G. Douglas


Presentations

Caminero-Santangelo, Marta

Warrior, Robert

Johnson, Kij

Announcements, Notes, & News

● Stephanie Fitzgerald’s book, Native Women and Land: Narratives of Dispossession and Resurgence (2015), has been awarded the 2016 Beatrice Medicine Award for Research by the Native American Literature Symposium Board.

● Jim Carothers attended the Faulkner/Hemingway Conference at Southeast Missouri State University October 20-22 and saw Department alumni Emily Bobo, Angela Glover, Jennie Joiner, and Adam Long, each of whom made presentations

KU and Regional Events

● Digital Humanities Seminar, “Critical Protocols in Indigenous Game Design,” Joshua Minor, Film & Media Studies, 21 November, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.


● Place, Race & Space Seminar, “TBA,” Jay T. Johnson, Geography & Atmospheric Science, 5 December, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

● The Urban Experience Seminar, “Race, (In)Equality, and Institutional Change: The Cleveland Public Schools, 1973-1998,” Argun Saatcioglu, School of Education, 8 December, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

Calls for Papers, Conferences, Symposia, Etc. (Posted)


Fellowships, Scholarships, Awards, Contests, Etc. (Posted)

● KU Office of Diversity and Equity Faculty Fellow to serve 1/23/17-6/30/18, to develop and implement strategies that improve the advancement and success of minoritized students, faculty, and staff at KU. Application deadline: 15 December.