



Planetary Cognitive Ecologies



N. Katherine Hayles

James B. Duke Professor of Literature at Duke University N. **Katherine Hayles**, who taught KU English's 2014 **Alice F. Holmes Summer Institute**, is back as a guest of the Hall Center on 13 November. She will deliver a public lecture entitled "A New Mode of Orientation: Planetary Cognitive Ecologies" at 7:30 pm at the Adams Alumni Center. Hayles' visit is a highlight of the Hall Center's Fall Faculty Colloquium 2017, "The Posthuman." Three of the colloquium's participants this year come from the

English Department: Professor Emeritus **James Gunn** and graduate students **Aaron Long** and **Anthony Boynton**. Hayles will target "exhausted and unproductive" biological and technical approaches to cognition and propose "reconceptualizing" it, "defining it as a capability that all living organisms possess in some degree and that many technical systems exhibit as well. Such a reorientation opens possibilities for more accurate, inclusive, and perceptive understanding of how humans relate to the built and organic worlds." Sure to be referenced is Hayles' most recent monograph, *Unthought: The Power of the Cognitive Unconscious* from the University of Chicago Press. Previous Hayles monographs, also from Chicago, include *How We Think: Digital Media and Contemporary Technogenesis* (2012) and *My Mother Was a Computer: Digital Subjects and Literary Texts* (2005).

Bad Kansas



Becky Mandelbaum

2013 KU English BA **Becky Mandelbaum** has made the department proud by winning the **2016 Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction** for her debut collection of stories, *Bad Kansas*, just published by University of Georgia Press. Mandelbaum returns to KU on Thursday, 16 November, to read from her work and interact with students interested in writing and publishing, as well as other post-collegiate endeavors (Becky is currently employed in North

Cascades National Park). Her reading is scheduled for 7:00 pm on the third floor of Watson Library. Press publicity calls *Bad Kansas* a "darkly humorous collection," full of "quirky characters" who "struggle to define their relationship to home and



what it means to stay or leave, to hold on or let go." Pam Houston, who taught the fledgling author in the creative writing MA program at UC Davis, praises Mandelbaum's work by saying ". . . every sentence is a made thing, never merely a vehicle for conveying information . . ." Houston also compares *Bad Kansas* to classic place-based collections by Richard Ford and Annie Proulx. Mandelbaum won the 2013 Langston Hughes Award for Fiction during her KU years and her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Missouri Review*, *The Georgia Review*, *The Rumpus* and other literary journals and venues.

Calendar

- F 10 Katie DuBois, PhD Exam**, 12:00 pm, 3001A Wescoe (Fischer, Harrington, *Johnson*, Lorenz, Batza).
- M 13 Colonialism Seminar**, "Decolonizing Knowledge: A Project for a New Present and a Different Future," **Byron Santangelo**, English/Environmental Studies and Glenn Adams, Psychology, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
- Hall Center Special Event**, "A New Mode of Orientation: Planetary Cognitive Ecologies," **N. Katherine Hayles**, English, Duke University, 7:30 pm, Adams Alumni Center.
- T 14 Voting Department Meeting**, 4:00 pm, 4051 Wescoe.
- Humanities Lecture Series: The Sosland Lecture**, "Evicted: Poverty & Profit in the American City," Matthew Desmond, Loeb Associate Professor of Social Sciences, Harvard University.
- W 15 The Waggoner Research Colloquium**, "Caribbean Representations," featuring **Giselle Anatol**, English; Cecile Accilien, AAAS; Tamara Falicov, Film and Media Studies; Omaris Zamora, Spanish & Portuguese, 3:30-5:00 pm, Malott Room, Kansas Union. Sponsored by the KU Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies.
- R 16 Fiction Reading**, *Bad Kansas*, **Becky Mandelbaum** (English BA '13), 7:00 pm, Watson Library, 3rd Floor.
- F 17 Black Literary Suite**, "The Black Female Body in Popular Culture," panel discussion with **Simone Savannah** and **Mikaela Warner**, English, 3:00 pm, Spencer Museum of Art.
- Red Hot Graduate Research**, "Racism & Afrofuturism," **Anthony Boynton**, English, along with five other graduate researchers in Molecular Biosciences, Linguistics, EEEB, Psychology, and Philosophy, 4:00 pm, The Commons.
- SAGE Meeting**, 4:00 pm, 4076 Wescoe.

Presentations

Bensel, Alyse

"The Poetry of (Un)Motherhood," with **Lesley Ann Wheeler**, Rhiannon Dickerson, and Karen Craig, C. D. Wright Women Writers Conference, University of Central Arkansas, 4 November.

Hardison, Ayesha

"The Poetics and Politics of Soul," roundtable at the Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP/9) conference, 26-28 October.

"'She'd be Damned If She'd Act Grateful': Domestic Disobedience and the Sleuthing Black Maid," on panel "Making Space for Black Lives," National Women's Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, 18 November.

Wheeler, Lesley Ann

"The Poetry of (Un)Motherhood," with **Alyse Bensel**, Rhiannon Dickerson, and Karen Craig, C. D. Wright Women Writers Conference, University of Central Arkansas, 4 November.

Accepted for Publication

Bensel, Alyse

"Suburbia" (poem). *elsewhere*, forthcoming.

"Grief is a fiddlehead" and "And the Expanse of a Digital Coastline" (poems). *South Dakota Review* 53.3&4, forthcoming.

Announcements, Notes, & News

• **Giselle Anatol's** presentation at the Waggoner Research Colloquium on 15 September (see "Calendar") is entitled "Folklore and Environmentalism in Caribbean Children's Literature."

• As first reported in our 24 October Voting Department meeting and again in the 9 November issue of *KU Today*, the English Department has received an endowed donation of approximately \$162,500 that will generate approximately \$7500 per year for scholarships in English. The donation is part of a \$1.3M bequest to KU from Perry Rashleigh and Rosemary Jones Rashleigh (the latter a KU English graduate) to establish five **Rashleigh Family Scholarships** in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, math, and English.

KU and Regional Events

• **University Theatre** presents *Rhinoceros*, by Eugene Ionesco, 11, 14-16 November, 7:30 pm, 12 November, 2:30 pm, Inge Theatre, Murphy Hall.

• **Place Race and Space Seminar**, "A Long Way from Home," David Roediger, American Studies, 13 November, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Oral History Seminar**, "Building Narratives of High-Risk Migration Against the Trafficking Paradigm," Stacey Vanderhurst, WGSS, 14 November, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Washburn University Center for Kansas Studies Lecture**, "Healing Roots: Indigenous Plant Knowledge in Tallgrass Prairie Literature," Aubrey Streit King, The Land Institute, 14 November, 3:00-4:00 pm, Forum Room, Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center, Washburn University, Topeka, KS.

• **Military & Society Seminar**, "Organizational Oblivion: Gendered Norms, Practices, and Policies in the Military," Alesha Doan and Shannon Portillo, School of Public Affairs & Administration, 16 November, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Lunch & Learn**, "Teaching Online: Where to Start and Lessons Learned," Stacy Vanderhurst, WGSS and Lorie Vanचना, Germanic Languages and Literatures, 17 November, 12:00-1:00 pm, Budig 6.

• **Theatre Lawrence** presents *Sons of the Prophet* by Steven Karam, staged reading, 17-18 November

• **Digital Humanities Seminar**, "Digital Humanities and Ethnic Identity in WWI American Immigrant Poetry," Lorie Vanचना, Germanic Languages and Literatures, 20 November, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

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

• **Jews in the Midwest: Their History**, KU Jewish Studies program symposium, 12 November, 9:00 am-6:30 pm, Hancock Ballroom, The Oread Hotel. Free and open to the public.

• **The Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians** invites proposals for papers or panels about Carson McCullers for the American Literature Association Conference in May 2018. Deadline: 1 January 2018.

• **2018 Film & Media Studies Graduate Symposium**, "Perspectives on/of the Mediated World," 9-10 February 2018, University of Kansas. Deadline: 1 December.

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

• **Eudora Welty Research Fellowship**, Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Deadline: 23 February 2018.