

INDIGENOUS GOTHIC, GHOSTS, & SPECULATIVE FICTION



2025 ASAIL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
APRIL 3 & 4



Thursday, 4/3

9:30 - Welcome

Session 1 | 10:00 - 11:15am

A: The Horror!: Thinking About Genre in Indigenous Contexts

- “Resistance Made Monstrous: Revisiting Academic Treatment of Indigenous People in Horror”
 - Laura Hall, *Carleton University*
- “Postindian Polyphony in Stephen Graham Jones’s Slasher Corpus”
 - Justin Wigard, *University of North Dakota*
- “Monstrous Manifestations: Exploring Generational Trauma and Healing in Jessica Johns’ Bad Cree”
 - Aries Farrington, *University of New Hampshire*

B: Rez Gothic in Texts & On Screen

- “Curses, Zombies, and Creepy Crawlies: Reimagining Despair and Resiliency Through Indigenous Gothic in Morgan Talty’s Short Stories”
 - Mimi Manyin, *University of Birmingham*
- “Rez Gothic: Monstrous Aunties, Sewing Skin, and the Horrors of Settler Colonialism”
 - Mallory Whiteduck (Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg), *Vassar College*
- “Staging an Indigenous Gothic in Contemporary TV”
 - Jackie Pinkowitz, *Mercer University*

Session 2 | 11:30 - 12:45 pm

A. Deer Woman, Land, and Story: The Resonance of Tradition in Indigenous Literatures

- “The Deer Woman: An Embodied Afro-Indigenous Sign of Survivance”
 - Amelia Ali, *Emory University*
- “Of Mountain Balds, Rivers, Rocks, and Settlements: Cherokee Memory, Place-Centered Topography, and the ‘Local Legends’ in Myths of the Cherokee”
 - Michael Martin, *Nicholls State University*
- “Hope Within Horror: Otherworldly Kin in *The Only Good Indians* and *Antelope Woman*”
 - Luta Fast Dog, *UCLA*



All times are EST.

B: Another Kind of Haunting: Film, Ghosts, and Demystification

- “Just Typing This Betrays My Cultural Teachings: Demystifying Death in Diné Creative Arts”
 - Renae Watchman, *McMaster University*
- “*Fancy Dance*: The Echoes of Colonialism and Indigenous Resilience”
 - Denise K. Cummings, *Tufts University*
 - Vanessa C. John (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma), *Tufts University*
- “Colonialism’s Ghost: Haunting and Horror in Jeff Barnaby’s *Rhymes for Young Ghouls*”
 - Sierra Knipe, *Kansas State University*

Session 3 | 1:00 - 2:15 pm

Plenary

Graduate Pedagogy, Storytelling, and Indigenous Theory: A Collaborative

Conversation

- Brian J. Twenter, *University of Central Oklahoma* (Chair)
- Noelle Buffo, *University of Central Oklahoma*
- Stephie Pinero, *University of Central Oklahoma*
- Alexandra Sweis, *University of Central Oklahoma*

We will demonstrate how to organize a graduate Indigenous Theories & Methods of Cultural Study course using Indigenous Storytelling Pedagogy. Each student led a course discussion and used that theory to Indigenize their current work on a thesis or longer project. In our panel we will discuss how the course was organized and share coursework on the Globalisation Affects on the Storytelling in Trese; in what manner Howl’s Moving Castle Reflects Indigenous Perspectives on Power; and Resistance and Identity in the Silence and Sovereignty in LeAnne Howe’s “Blind Bread and the Business of Theory Making, by Embarrassed Grief.”



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Session 4 | 2:30 - 3:45 pm

A. Apocalypse Now: Indigenous Horror & the Ecogothic

- “Futurity and Progress in Louise Erdrich’s *Future Home of the Living God*”
 - Gabriella Friedman, *Ohio Wesleyan University*
- “The (Decolonial) Ecogothic in *True Detective: Night Country* (2024)”
 - Preston Taylor Stone, *Santa Clara University*
- “From Crusted Snow to Rotting Star: Ways of Theorizing ‘Indigenous Horror’”
 - Naomi Simone Borwein, *Western University*

B: Indigenous Refusals in the Face of Apocalypse

- “Exposing Settler Colonialism’s Twisted Dynamics: The Work of Alicia Elliott and Kaia’tanóron Dumoulin Bush”
 - Patrizia Zanella, *Oregon State University-Cascades*
- “Residential School Restaged: (Un)disciplined Relations in Cherie Dimaline’s *Hunting By Stars*”
 - Vanessa Evans, *Appalachian State University*
 - Anah-Jayne Samuelson, *Red Deer Polytechnic*
- “Post Apocalyptic Queerness in ‘How to Survive the Apocalypse for Native Girls’”
 - Corrina Richards, *Appalachian State University*

Session 5 | 4:00 - 5:15 pm

Keynote

Darcie Little Badger

Reading from *Sheine Lende*

Darcie Little Badger is a Lipan Apache writer with a PhD in oceanography. Her critically acclaimed debut novel, *Elatsoe*, was featured in *Time Magazine* as one of the best 100 fantasy books of all time. *Elatsoe* also won the Locus award for Best First Novel and is a Nebula, Ignyte, and Lodestar finalist. Her second fantasy novel, *A Snake Falls to Earth*, received a Nebula Award, an Ignyte Award, and a Newbery Honor and is on the National Book Awards longlist. Her third novel, *Sheine Lende*, is the prequel to *Elatsoe* and was a *USA Today* Bestseller. Darcie is married to a veterinarian named Taran.



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Friday, 4/4

Session 6 | 10:00 - 11:15 am

A: Movement, Memory, and 21st Century Removals

- “They stepped onto the trail, one by one, to begin this new life’: Movement in Contemporary Indigenous Speculative Fiction”
 - Luca von Kirschbaum, *University of Bonn, Germany*
- “The Walking Dead Already’: Don de Soto and the Lady of Cofitachequi”
 - Kirstin Squint, *East Carolina University*
- “Before the Burnings’: Neo-Colonial Violence in a Bordertown”
 - Jeff Berglund, *Northern Arizona University*

B: Making Visible and Voicing Spectres of Colonization in Contemporary Native Authors Artists’ Book Productions

- Dr. Isabel Dulfano, *University of Utah*
- Lyuba Basin, *University of Utah*
- Alba Fernandez-Keys, *University of Arizona*

Session 7 | 11:30 - 12:45 pm

Plenary

Indigenous Poetics: A Roundtable

- Molly McGlennan, *Vassar College* (Co-Chair)
- Inés Hernández-Ávila, *University of California, Davis* (Co-Chair)
- Janet McAdams, *Kenyon College* Emerita
- Michael Wasson, *ICSC*
- Shaina Nez, *Arizona State University*



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Session 8 | 1:00 - 2:15pm

ASAIL Business Meeting

Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to come discuss the future of the organization.

Session 9 | 2:30 - 3:45 pm

Plenary

Expanding Our Community: ASAIL as a Resource and Relative for High School

Teachers

- Becca Gercken, *University of Minnesota Morris* (Chair)
- Laura M. Furlan, *University of Massachusetts Amherst*
- Rachel Luckenbill, *Bishop Moore Catholic High School*
- Jeremy M. Carnes, *Crooms Academy of Information Technology*
- Kenneth Roemer, *University of Texas Arlington* Emerita

Session 10 | 4:00 - 5:15 pm

Keynote

Eric Gary Anderson, George Mason University

"The Indigenous Undead"

Eric Gary Anderson is director of graduate studies and associate professor of English at George Mason University. His recent work includes a chapter on Indigenous horror literature for *The Cambridge History of Native American Literature*, an article on ecologies of the undead in Lincoln in the Bardo for a special issue of *Studies in American Fiction* focusing on Ecogothic, a Los Angeles Review of Books piece on *Never Whistle at Night: An Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology*, and a chapter on *The X-Files* in *Small-Screen Souths: Region, Identity, and the Cultural Politics of Television*. He has published one monograph, *American Indian Literature and the Southwest* (Texas, 1999) and is co-editor of *Undead Souths: The Gothic and Beyond in Southern Literature and Culture* (LSU, 2015) and *Swamp Souths: Literary and Cultural Ecologies* (LSU, 2020). Anderson is a founding board member of the Society for the Study of American Gothic. Forthcoming work includes two book chapters (both on contemporary southern gothic), two book projects (one on Indigenous undeadness and one on slasher ecologies), and the co-edited volume *"The Impossible Shot: Race, Genre, and Spectacle in Jordan Peele's Nope,"* which is under advance contract with the University Press of Mississippi.



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