2015 New Voices Conference Theme
“The Rule of Threes: Death, Humor, and Repetition”
At the intersection of death and humor is a central rule: the rule of threes. This rule stipulates that if one person dies, two more will follow. Similarly, the rules of humor suggest that something must occur three times in order to be funny. This theme seeks to investigate the multiple intersections of humor and death and their relationships to the humanities by asking where humor and death intersect and how the concept of repetition plays a part in these relationships.

The 2015 New Voices Committee Welcomes You
New Voices Committee is made up as dedicated graduate students fully immersed in being both novice researchers and teachers of the research/composing process. As such, we are excited to host a conference with a theme that obfuscates boundaries between the public, structured nature of research and the private, unpredictable reactions to death and humor. The theme, provided by Andi Rogers, also allows us to incorporate Fountainhead Press’s Funny and Death readers, which allow composition instructors to explore these boundaries in their classrooms as well. As graduate students we value the relationships cultivated in the space of a conference and are excited to invite you into this space and help you make the most out of the experience.

Deborah S. D’Cruze & Kateland Wolfe
New Voices Conference Co-Chairs
A Welcome from Dr. Paul Schmidt

I would like to express my thanks to all of you who supported the New Voices 2015 Conference by assisting, attending, presenting, providing funding, or simply spreading the word. It has been a pleasure working with Deborah and the other graduate students who are members of the GEA and the New Voices Organizing committee. Be sure to show your gratitude to them.

This year’s conference, “The Rule of Threes: Death, Humor, and Repetition,” should provide plenty of opportunity for enlightenment and entertainment. I hope the papers will give us all a chance to laugh at life’s only real certitude-- the fact that it will end. Being together and sharing each other’s ideas and humor will make the acceptance of that inevitability a little easier.

The New Voices conference is special in that it gives a privileged voice to graduate students. I hope you all take full advantage of this opportunity to get to know each other and to enjoy the pleasures of your young intellectual lives while you can, because, as the title of this conference reminds us, it all comes to an end too soon, and if we are clever enough to see the humor in that, we are fortunate indeed.

One last observation and a question: I have never been a true believer in superstitions like the Rule of Threes, but I have a healthy respect for the irrational. That said, why do so many scholarly panels, including many at this conference, have three presenters? I’m just asking.

Best,

Paul H. Schmidt
New Voices Faculty Advisor
Acknowledgements

The 2015 New Voices conference would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the New Voices planning committee. We would like to personally acknowledge Jennifer Olive, Mostafa Jalal, Jessica Temple, Christopher Toula, William Lake, Cristine Busser, Valerie Robin, Shane McGowan, and Dan Abitz.

The New Voices Committee would also like to thank our keynote speaker, Joe Peacock, for his time and valuable contribution to the conference; Mark Price and Fountainhead for their continued support; and the wonderful baristas at Ėbrîk who support our coffee habits and need for meeting space.

We also want to thank all of our friends, family, and volunteers who supported us through the process of putting this conference together.

Death Rides a Tricycle Image Credit: Paul Robertson

Best Use of Conference Theme Winner

The 2015 paper that best incorporated the conference theme “Death and Humor” goes to Tajane Barnes of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University with "'Nigga Moments Cannot be Solved through Violence': Death, Destruction, and Black Male Agency." Hear this paper delivered in Panel 17.

MVP Award

The Most Valuable Player Award goes to Jennifer Olive for her tireless work this past year on New Voices. Creating and maintaining the new website, blitzing social media and emails, Jennifer has gone above and beyond in her work for the conference. We wish to recognize her for her dedication and drive.
Thursday, February 5, 2015
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Conference Kick-off
Troy Moore Library, English Department

Deborah S. D'Cruze- New Voices 2015 Co-Chair
  Welcome

Dr. Randy Malamud- English Department Chair
  Opening Remarks

Dr. Paul Schmidt- New Voices Faculty Advisor
  Opening Remarks

Kateland Wolfe- New Voices 2015 Co-Chair:
  Acknowledgements

GSU Faculty Research Roundtable
Dr. Robin Wharton, Department of English
Dr. Jay Rajiva, Department of English
Friday, February 6, 2015

Session 1 9:00-10:15 am

Panel 1: Incorporating Death and Humor in Literature I
Troy Moore Library  Chair: Kristen Ruccio

“The Music of Death: Signifyin(g) Life and Death Through Music in Gloria Naylor’s Bailey’s Café.”
Kimberly A. Farrier, Winthrop University

"A Medieval Game of Chicken: The Meeting of Death and Humor in Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"
Peter I. Steffensen, Georgia State University

"I did know whether to laugh or cry: How I used irony to cope with my husband’s death"
Rachael Lussos, George Mason University

Panel 2: Surly you Jest! The Conceptualization of Humor
Room 2325  Chair: Jennifer Castle

"The Laugh that Betrays: Laughter and Social Critique in Fanny Burney’s Evelina"
Jennifer Castle, Georgia State University
"The Beauty! The Beauty! – Death and Humor in Junot Díaz’s 'The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao''"
Dietlind Falk, Heinrich-Heine-University

"An Antiseptic Treatment for Death: Humor and Signifyin(g) in Sherman Alexie's The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven"
Asa McMullen, Winthrop University

Panel 3: Beyond the Grave: The Power of Death in Literature
Room 2447 Chair: Emma C. Baughman

"Knocked Up: Violent Sex and Pregnant Mutiny in Edgar Allen Poe’s The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket"
Holly M. Lynn, University of North Carolina-Wilmington

"The Erotic Car Crash: Death, Sex, and Absurdity in John Hawkes’ Travesty"
Emma C. Baughman, Georgia State University

"Death, Metatheatre, and Humor" **
Dr. Joachim E. Antonio, University of Asia and the Pacific (Philippines)

**Skype/ Google Hangout Participant
Session 2 10:30-11:45 am

Poetry Workshop: Death in Poetry
Troy Moore Library    Chair: Dr. Beth Gylys

This workshop is open only to pre-registered participants.

Panel 4: Teaching Death: Utilizing the Death Reader in the Composition Classroom
Room 2325    Chair: Deborah S. D’Cruze

Pedagogy round table discussion about Fountainhead’s vSeries Reader led by the New Voices Committee.

GSU Students: This counts as a mentoring session

Panel 5: Death: Digital Rhetoric in the Modern Day
Room 2447    Chair: Valerie Robin

“The Many Faces of Embodiment: Toward a Definition of Embodiment in Computers and Composition Literature”
Kateland Wolfe, Georgia State University

“Delivering the Future: An Analysis of Google Documents Through Porter’s Konoi Topoi”
Valerie Robin, Georgia State University
Lunch 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm
Please grab lunch from one of the many places suggested at the back of your program before joining us for our Keynote Session.

Key Note Address 1:30-2:45 pm
Troy Moore Library
Joseph Peacock
Writer for Huffington Post - Death & Humor

Session 3 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm

Fiction Workshop: Death
Troy Moore Library Chairs: Justin Daugherty and Stephanie Devine

This workshop is open only to pre-registered participants.

Panel 6: Death and Humor in Moving Images
Room 2447 Chair: Michael T. Smith

"The Vampire Phenomenon: Buffy Summers Becomes A Martyr to Prevent Vampire Mayhem" **
Angela Hart, Georgetown University
"Breaking and Remaking the Rule of Threes in 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show'"
   Merlin A. Jones, Tennessee Tech University

"Freud, superego, Python"
   Michael T. Smith, Purdue University

"Death and Hyperreality"
   Khayambashi Shahbaz, York University

**Skype/ Google Hangout Participant

Playtest: Death in Games
   9th Floor, Communications Department

Playtest is a weekly deep dive into game mechanics, concepts, and experiences hosted by the Creative Media Industries Institute and New and Emerging Media Initiative at Georgia State University. This week, join us for a discussion on the mechanics and narratives experiences of death in games led by Cameron Kunzelman, PhD student in Communications at Georgia State University.

For more information, please see our website:
http://playtest.gsu.edu
**Session 4**  
4:30 pm – 5:45 pm

Panel 7: Humor in the Classroom: Utilizing the *Funny* Reader in the Composition Classroom  
Room 2325  Chair: Kateland Wolfe

Pedagogy round table discussion about Fountainhead’s vSeries Reader led by the New Voices Committee.

*GSU Students: This counts as a mentoring session*

Panel 8: Humor, Death, and the Rule of Threes in *Romeo and Juliet*  
Room 2325  Chair: Merlin A. Jones

"Freud’s Tripartite Psyche in Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*"  
Ashley N. Ickes, *Tennessee Tech University*

"Juliet's Nurse: an Intersection of Humor, Death, and Agency"  
Merlin A. Jones, *Tennessee Tech University*

"Injustice in the Streets of Verona"  
Philip B. Marlow, *Tennessee Tech University*
Panel 9: The Rule of Threes in 19th-century American Literary Works By Dickinson, Melville and Thoreau
Room 2447 Chair: Mostafa K. Jalal

"The Rule of Threes in Herman Melville's Moby-Dick"
Mostafa K. Jalal, Georgia State University

"Thoreau’s Poetry of Friendship"
Jessica Temple, Georgia State University

"Text Within Text And The Theatre of Print Culture: Melville’s Billy Budd"
Nancy Paxton-Wilson, Georgia State University

"American Romantic Funerals: Dickinson's Coffins and Melville’s Hearses"
Randall W. Harrell, Georgia State University

Coffee and Snacks 3:00 – 5:45pm
23rd Floor Break Area
Sponsored by Fountainhead Press
Saturday, February 7, 2015

Session 1  
10:30 am – 11:45 am

Panel 10: Death as a Concept  
Troy Moore Library  
Chair: Marcia I. Bost

"The Rhetoric of Mortality in Geopolitics: No Laughing Matter"  
Marcia I. Bost, Shorter University

“Untitled”  
Lava Asaad, Middle Tennessee State University

"Family, Dysfunction, and Humor: The Layers of Death in Alison Bechdel's Graphic Memoirs"  
Kel G. Martin, University of North Florida

Panel 11: A Glass Darkly: Reflections on the BBC’s  
Black Mirror  
Room 2325  
Chair: Christopher Cox

"A Glass Darkly: Reflections on Black Mirror"  
Christopher M. Cox, Georgia State University

“‘You Are You, But Also Not’ Phenomenology and Embodiment in Black Mirror"  
Dewey Musante, Georgia State University
"The Limits of Control: The Power of Social Narcissism in Black Mirror"
   Hemrani Vyas, Georgia State University

"Riding the Simulacra for Fun and Credits"
   Colin S. Wheeler, Georgia State University

Panel 12: Incorporating Themes in the Rhetoric and Composition Classroom
   Room 2447    Chair: Ashok Bhusal

"Genre approach to ESL teaching in Nepal"
   Ashok Bhusal, George Mason University

"Teaching Death Comics in the Composition Classroom: The Rule of Three Student Papers"
   Nathan R. Wagner, Georgia State University

Lunch 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Please grab lunch from one of the many places suggested at the back of your program before joining us for Session 2.
Session 2 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

Panel 13: Death & Humor in the Writing and Tutoring Space
Troy Moore Library  Chair: Cristine Busser

"Keeping the Tutorial Alive: Talking and Writing about Death in the Writing Studio"
Matt Donald, Georgia State University

"Too soon? Laughing at Students’ Writing in Tutor Training"
Cristine Busser, Georgia State University

"Business (Not) Casual: Finding a Voice in the Formality of Resumes & Cover Letters"
Helen Cauley, Georgia State University

Panel 14: Incorporating Death and Humor in Literature II
Room 2325  Chair: Kristen Ruccio

"How Language Destroyed Annabella’s Body and Damned Giovanni’s Soul: Selected Stylistic Tendencies in John Ford’s ‘Tis Pity She’s a Whore’"
Philip Shafer, Middle Tennessee State University

"The Living Haunt the Dead: Eruptions of Phantasm in Our Mutual Friend"
Kristen A. Ruccio, Georgia State University
"Mark Twain and Ego Death"
Misty D. Fuller, University of North Florida

“Sir Katniss and her Lady: Subverting Gender Roles in The Hunger Games”
Cortney M. Stewart, Western Kentucky University

Panel 15: The Power of Death
Room 2447 Chair: Emma C. Baughman

"The Power to Die: Suicide in Shakespeare"
Allison Pine, Georgia State University

"The Postmodern Inferno: Death and Humor in Chuck Palahniuk's Damned" **
Eric W. Hughes, University of North Alabama

**Skype/ Google Hangout Participant

Session 3 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm

Panel 16: Repetition in the Poetry of Loss
Troy Moore Library Chair: Jessica Temple

"Trinity in Walt Whitman's 'When Lilacs in the Dooryard Last Bloom'd"
Mostafa K. Jalal, Georgia State University
"If the Form Fits: Death and the Villanelle"
Jessica Temple, Georgia State University

"'A Monument’s Moment': The Elegiac Sonnet"
Zackary Rearick, Georgia State University

Panel 17: Race Representations in the Modern Era
Room 2325  Chair: Jennifer Olive

"Race Representation in Video Games"
Jennifer Olive, Georgia State University

"A Comparative and Archetypal Study on Chinese and Western Rule of Three"
Xiaobo Wang, Georgia State University

"'Nigga moments cannot be solved through violence': Death, Destruction, and Black Male Agency"
Tajanae Barnes, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
Panel 18: The Sign of Three: A Composition Mystery of Reviewing, Revising, and Reworking
Room 2447

Round table discussion

Helen Cauley, Georgia State University
Matthew Sansbury, Georgia State University

Closing Remarks 4:00 pm
Troy Moore Library
Fiction and Poetry Reading
5:00pm - 7:00pm
Ěbrík Coffeehouse
16 Park Place SE, Atlanta, GA 30303 (2 minute walk from conference)

Please note that following our fiction and poetry event, there will be an unofficial conference wrap party in downtown Atlanta. See the Presenters’ FAQ in your conference welcome packet for locations.

Thank you for attending the 2015 New Voices Conference. Hope to see you next year!
Downtown Atlanta Attractions

Food & Drink

5-10 minutes walking distance from conference

Moe’s Southwest Grill
70 Peachtree Street Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30303

Dua Vietnamese Noodle Soup
53 Broad Street Northwest, Atlanta, GA 30303

Subway
68 Broad Street Northwest, Atlanta, GA

Anatolia Cafe and Hookah Lounge
52 Peachtree Street Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30303

Ebrik Coffee Room
16 Park Place SE, Atlanta, GA 30303

Slice Downtown
85 Poplar Street Northeast, Atlanta, GA

Transportation

The 2015 New Voices Graduate Student Conference is located near the 5 Points MARTA station and on the new Atlanta Streetcar line.