Reconstruction at 150: Occupied Territory
final program 2017

Friday, November 10

Reconstruction’s Foreground (8:30-10:00)
Timothy Sweet (chair)

Elizabeth Duquette, “‘Brass-fronted impudence’ and American Tyranny”
Justine S. Murison, “American Hypocrisy from Jefferson to John Brown”
Shirley Samuels, “Standing Lincoln”
Martin T. Buinicki, “Walt Whitman’s Southern Sympathies”

Weird John Brown? (10:15-11:45)
Gregory Laski (chair)

Jeffrey Insko, “Fanaticism”
Kathleen Diffley, “Regarding Pottawatomie”
Christopher Hager, “Plotting Pilgrimage”
Cody Marrs, “John Brown’s Interplanetary Socialism”

Slavery and Capitalism (2:15-3:45)
John Levi Barnard (chair)

Sam Graber, “‘Pay for His Body’: Whitman’s War on Capitalist Compromise”
Andrew Kopec, “Early African American Literature and the Freedom to Fail”
Cristie Ellis, “Slavery and the Birth of Biocapital”

New & Noteworthy: Slavery’s Tremors (4:00-5:30)
Kathleen Diffley (chair)

Gregory Laski, author of Untimely Democracy: The Politics of Progress after Slavery
John Levi Barnard, author of Empire of Ruin: Black Classicism and American Imperial Culture
Coleman Hutchison, editor of the Cambridge History of American Civil War Literature
Rebecca Entel, author of Fingerprints of Previous Owners: A Novel
Saturday, November 11

Distilling the Civil War (8:30-10:00)
Martin T. Buinicki (chair)

Christine Hedlin, “Evolving Determinisms: Holmes’s Elsie Venner and the Eruption of War”
Kristen Treen, “‘A Shell and What Became of It’: Projectile Narratives and Commemorative Trajectories at Gettysburg”
Vanessa Steinroetter, “Revisiting Melville's Skepticism toward Reconciliation in ‘Magnanimity Baffled’”
Benjamin Cooper, “Realism as Reconstruction Cover-Up: Henry Adams’s Democracy”

Reading the Medical Body: Patients, Practitioners, Plotters, and Plagiarizers (10:15-11:45)
Justine S. Murison (chair)

Rachel A. Blumenthal, “Demanding Blood: Race, Injurability, and Textual Triage”
Jane E. Schultz, “Bedside Compunction: Civil War Healers and Mortal Passage”
Sarah E. Gardner, “Reading, Infirmitity, and Suicide”
Ian Finseth, “Sarah Edmonds: Soldier, Nurse, and Plagiarist in the Union Army”

The Poetry of Upheaval (2:15-3:45)
Sam Graber (chair)

Timothy Sweet, “Mourning in Ballad and Requiem”
Marla Anzalone, “‘Returning, resuming, I thread my way through the hospitals’: Recursive Memory in Whitman’s ‘The Wound-Dresser’”
Michael Stancliff, “Timeless New England: Whittier after the War”
Elizabeth Renker, “The Poetries of Reconstruction, North and South”

In Celebration: 50 Years of the African American Review (4:00-5:30)
Nathan Grant (chair)

Faith Barrett: “‘The Musical Chamber’ and ‘The Haunted Castle’: Gentility and Resistance in George Moses Horton’s Poetical Works”
Sarah Lynn Patterson, “‘See how the tables are turned’: Charlotte Forten’s Life on the Sea Islands in the Atlantic Monthly”
Eric Gardner, “Edmonia Goodelle Highgate’s Reconstruction(s)”