



**MISSISSIPPI**  
*Philological Association*

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**

*Legacies & Futures*

**FEB 28 - MAR 1 • OXFORD, MS**



# WELCOME

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Oxford campus of The University of Mississippi for the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Philological Association. The annual meeting returns to UM after a long hiatus, and it is an honor to host you in this beautiful and historic place that we call home.

This year's meeting continues the legacy of MPA and its annual gathering as a space for fostering academic and creative engagement with fellow scholars from around the state and region. Panels on literature, language, and creative writing bring together a multitude of voices to share in the "love of words" at the heart of any philological association. We also want to use this annual meeting to turn towards the future and consider how to grow MPA into a future that continues to foster the sense of community that draws so many of us to this meeting each year.

We are also pleased to host two keynote presentations. The first, on Friday evening, features Exodus Oktavia Brownlow sharing her creative works; the second, on Saturday at lunch, features Ralph Eubanks discussing current motifs in literature from Mississippi as a regional space and as connected to a global South. The Friday keynote is free and open to the public thanks to a grant from Visit Oxford.

We have selected from the many wonderful proposals this year works to feature on two honorary panels: The Robert Hamblin Creative Writing panel on Friday afternoon and the Benjamin F. Fisher American Literature panel as the final panel on Saturday.

The UM campus occupies land that was part of the ancestral home of the Chickasaw people before their removal in 1837. The construction of the original campus included the labor of enslaved Black people; their labor extended into



other roles in the maintenance of the campus and lives of students and administrators through the first decade of UM's existence. We acknowledge this history and invite attendees to remember this history while on campus for the two days of our annual meeting. We also invite attendees to participate in a guided tour of campus on Saturday to learn more about the legacies of enslavement in our campus space.

We hope all attendees have a wonderful weekend in Oxford. Oxford is renowned as an artistic and cultural center and a foodie's paradise. Of note, the Oxford Film Festival coincides with our annual meeting. You can't consider that you've really been to Oxford unless you make time to go out, relax, and explore a bit (there's even a very nice house near campus where a world-famous writer used to live).

Please enjoy your stay in Oxford, and, of course, Hotty Toddy!

Phillip "Pip" Gordon,  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Gender Studies  
The University of Mississippi

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

## Friday, February 28

*Registration: 10 am - 6 pm*  
*Ford Balroom Lobby*

11:30 am - 12:50 pm - Session A

1 - 2:20 pm - Session B

2:30 - 3:50 pm - Session C

4 - 5:30 pm - Session D  
Robert Hamblin Creative Writing Panel  
*Location: Ford B/C*

5:30 pm - Break

6 - 8 pm - Dinner and Creative Keynote with  
Exodus Oktavia Brownlow  
*Location: Ford B/C/D*

*The keynote and dinner are sponsored by the Center for  
the Study of Southern Culture and Visit Oxford*

## Saturday, March 1

8 - 9:20 am - Session E

9:30 - 10:50 am - Session F

11 am - Business Meeting  
*Location: Ford B/C*

11:30 am - 12:50 pm - Session G  
Lunch and Keynote with W. Ralph Eubanks  
*Location: Ford B/C*

1 - 2 pm - Break or Campus Slavery Tour  
*Tour will depart from Ford Balroom Lobby*

2 - 3:20 pm - Session H

3:30 - 5:00 pm - Session I  
Benjamin F. Fisher American Literature Panel  
*Location: Ford B/C*

5:30 - Closing Reception / Cocktail Party  
*McCormick's - on your own*

## About the Slavery History Tour

For several years, members of University of Mississippi Slavery Research Group have been offering campus slavery tours to their own students, to visiting scholars, and on request. These tours, which can vary between 45 minutes and an hour and a half in length, seek to make the UMSRG's findings publicly available in an easily digestible format. The tours we've been giving vary from guide to guide, but generally include information about:

- the development of the antebellum campus the centrality of enslaved laborers in the construction and daily operation of the antebellum campus
- the conditions under which enslaved people worked on campus
- the slaveholdings of early UM students, faculty, and trustees, as well as their ideological commitments to slavery
- slavery's role as the central cause of the Civil War
- slavery's relationship to Confederate iconography and memorialization



# FRIDAY

Registration: 10 am - 6 pm

## 11:30 am - 12:50 pm - Session A

### Panel 1: Metaphysics, Mechanics, and Mystery: Cormac McCarthy's Last Two Novels

Moderator: Jay Watson (Faculty, UM)

Location: Ford B

- Potts, James (Independent Scholar) • "The Fallen Angels of Cormac McCarthy's *The Passenger* and *Stella Maris*"
- Kirkland, Terra (Independent Scholar) • "Alicia Western's Spiritual and Philosophical Associations"
- Yeates, Rebecca (Graduate Student) • "From Whence Cometh McCarthy's Thalidomide Kid?"

### Panel 2: Creative Writing I

Moderator: Kellene O'Hara (Faculty, UM)

Location: Ford C

- Clark, Larry (Graduate Student, JSU) • "Not While I'm Around"
- Pitts, Kathy R. (Faculty, JSU) • "An Object of Longing"
- Vergara, Reyna (Faculty, MUW) • "Camino in Shadows"

## 1:00 pm - 2:20 pm - Session B

### Panel 1: Gossip and Forms of Community in Southern Literature

Moderator: Ted Atkinson (Faculty, MSU)

Location: Ford B

- Agyapong, Portia (Graduate Student, MSU) • "Gossip as Social Currency in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*"
- Hanegan, Josephine (Graduate Student, MSU) • "Out of the Mouths of Babies: Gossip as Rearing in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Intruder in the Dust*"
- Stevens, Layla (Graduate Student, MSU) • "Witches and Conjurers: Examining the Contexts of Mystic Women in Lee Smith's *Oral History* and Gloria Naylor's *Mama Day*"

### Panel 2: Creative Writing II

Moderator: Madison Brown (Faculty, USM)

Location: Ford C

- Condran, Jeffrey (Faculty, UA - Little Rock) • "The Promise"
- Denham, Dawn (Faculty, UM) • "The Animal Kingdom" from *SPIN*, a memoir.
- Zheng, John (Faculty, MVSU) • "Poems after Jazz Photographs by Leo Touchet"

### Panel 3: Language and Linguistics I

Moderator: Daniel O'Sullivan (Faculty, UM)

Location: Ford D

- Covarrubias, Janie (Faculty, William Carey) • "The Llorona of Gloria Anzaldúa"
- Harland, Robert (Faculty, MSU) • "Foxy Gentleman: Where Isabel Allende's Zorro Comes From"
- Stoops, Rosa María (Faculty, University of Montevallo) • "From Wolves to Werewolves, Chacales, and Nahuales: The Representation of the Lycanthrope in Literature"

## 2:30 pm - 3:50 pm - Session C:

### Panel 1: Race and Mississippi Writers

Moderator: Pip Gordon (Faculty, UM)

Location: Ford B

- Khan, Almas (Faculty, UM) • "Mississippi Judges and the African American Literary Tradition in the Black Lives Matter Era"
- Gordon, Pip (Faculty, UM) • "Narratives of Race and Reproductive Healthcare from Faulkner to *Dobbs*"
- Wiltshire, Allison (Faculty, MVSU) • "Mississippi Masochism: Agentic Pain in Claude Wilkinson's *World Without End* and Jesmyn Ward's *Where the Line Bleeds*"

### Panel 2: Creative Writing III

Moderator: John Han (Faculty, MBU)

Location: Ford C

- Eanes, Josie (Undergraduate Student, UA - Little Rock) • "Lost Things"
- Kinder, Alice (Undergraduate Student, UA Little Rock) • ".357 Magnum"
- Thomas, Joseph (Undergraduate Student, UA - Little Rock) • "Fixed Match"
- Wagoner, Kylie (Undergraduate Student, UA - Little Rock) • "The Pre-Dream Condition"



### Panel 3: Language and Linguistics II

Moderator: Kellene O'Hara (Faculty, UM)

*Location: Ford D*

- Castro, Cristine (Faculty, MVSU) • "Translating Japanese Poetry into Spanish: Visual Language into Words"
- Condran, Jeffrey & Melnic, Svetlana (Faculty, UA - Little Rock) • "Legacies of the Communist Detention Diary: Translating Alexei Marinat"
- O'Sullivan, Daniel (Faculty, UM) • "The Many Faces of the Troubadour Pistolet"

### 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm - Session D: Robert Hamblin Creative Writing Panel

Moderator: Bill Hays (Faculty, UM)

*Location: Ford B/C*

- Albin, Craig (Faculty, MoSU - West Plains) • "Artifacts of Absence: Poems"
- Aryal, Khem (Faculty, ASU) • "The Troubleson"
- McCaulay, M. Caroline (Faculty, UM) • "regarding my absence"

### 6 - 8 pm- Dinner & Creative Keynote with Exodus Oktavia Brownlow: "Legacies and Futures: Why We Must Optimistically Look Back Upon Our Legacies To Lean Forward Optimistically Into Our Futures"

*Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and Visit Oxford*

### *Institutional Abbreviations:*

ASU - Arkansas State University

DSU - Delta State University

JSU - Jackson State University

MSMS - Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science

MSU - Mississippi State University

MUW - Mississippi University for Women

MTSU - Middle Tennessee State University

MVSU- Mississippi Valley State University

UM - The University of Mississippi

USM - University of Southern Mississippi

# SATURDAY

## 8:00 am - 9:20 am - Session E:

### Panel 1: Gothic and Speculative Fiction

Moderator: Melanie Anderson (Faculty, DSU)

*Location: Ford B*

- Bowen-Sweet, Sydney (Undergraduate Student, MSU) • "Lucy Snowe's Compromised Pleasure: In Charlotte Brontë's *Villette*"
- Quinn, Erin (Undergraduate Student, MSU) • "'Karmically Challenged Apartment Buildings' and 'Undefined Anarchism of Cyberspace': Thomas Pynchon's *Bleeding Edge* as Gothic Novel"
- Norris, Anndria (Graduate Student, JSU) • "Horror vs Speculative Literature: Exploring Processed Traumas within the Black Novel in *America; Mother Daughter* edition."
- Smith-Spears, RaShell (Faculty, JSU) • "'When I think of home, I think of a resting place: Horror and the Search for Belonging in HBO's *Lovecraft Country*'"

### Panel 2: Creative Writing IV

Moderator: M. Caroline McCauley (Faculty, UM)

*Location: Ford C*

- Hanley, Brett (Faculty, MSU) • "Selected Poems from Small Fabric"
- Moniz, Matthew (Faculty, MUW) • "Poems"
- Richardson, Thomas (Faculty, MSMS) • "'Breaking' and Other Poems"

### Panel 3: Creative Writing V

Moderator: Kellene O'Hara (Faculty, UM)

*Location: Ford D*

- Han, John (Faculty, MBU) • "Winter Twilight: Micro Poems"
- Hays, Bill (Faculty, UM) • "The High Price of Dancing"
- Vaughan, Makyla (Undergraduate Student, UA - Little Rock) • "Dickson Street"

## 9:30 am - 10:50 am - Session F:

### Panel 1: Creative Writing VI

Moderator: Thomas Richardson (Faculty, MSMS)

*Location: Ford C*

- Kelley, Inkera (Graduate Student, JSU) • “No Mother of Mine” • “A Love Lost, A Love Gained”
- McDuffey, Jeremy (Graduate Student, JSU) • “The South”
- Redmond Morgan, Vergie (Graduate Student, JSU) • “A Swipe with Death”

### Panel 2: Language and Linguistics III - Transgressive Territories: Bodies, Spaces, and Alternative Identities in Latin American Literature

Moderator: Diane Marting (Faculty, UM)

*Location: Ford C*

- Coral Patiño, Daniela (Faculty, MSU) • “The Representation of Femininity in Nature in ‘The Shrouded Woman’ by Maria Luisa Bombal”
- Herrada Rios, Marcela (Graduate Student, MSU) • “‘Las malas’ and Travesti Motherhood as Resistance against Abjection”
- Lozano, Johana (Graduate Student, MSU) • “Bodies in Resistance: Transphobic Violence and Support Networks in Sosa Villada’s ‘Las Malas’”
- Charry, Sharel (Graduate Student, MSU) • “Intersectionality and Resistance: The Construction of Alternative Identities in Mariana Rondón’s ‘Pelo Malo’”

### Panel 3: Creative Writing VII

Moderator: Bill Hays (Faculty, UM)

*Location: Ford A*

- Brown, Madison (Graduate Student, USM) • “The Box Turtle Swims Upstream in Frick Park”
- Jackson, Laney (Undergraduate Student, UA - Little Rock) • “Short Fiction: We are The Moles”
- Thurmond, Frank (Faculty, UA - Little Rock) • “Travels With Ellie”

## 11 am - Business Meeting

*Location: Ford B/C*

## 11:30 am - 12:50 pm - Session G:

### Lunch & Keynote with W. Ralph Eubanks:

### “Geography, Place, and Southern Literature”

*Location: Ford B/C*

## 1 - 2 pm - Slavery History Tour/Break

*Gather in the ballroom lobby by 1 pm*

## 2 - 3:20 pm - Session H:

### Panel 1: 20th-Century American Literature

Moderator: Pip Gordon (Faculty, UM)

*Location: Ford B*

- Ramsey, C. Earl (Faculty, UA - Little Rock) • “*Lonesome Dove* Is Even More Lonesome than I Thought”
- Nugent, Terry (Faculty, UA - Monticello) • “Faith and Pragmatism: A Comparative Study of Windham and Bogan Murdock in Robert Penn Warren’s ‘At Heaven’s Gate’”
- Tebbetts, Terrell (Faculty, Lyon College) • “Claude Wheeler’s Mistaken Church: A Tacit Allusion in Willa Cather’s *One of Ours*”

### Panel 2: Creative Writing VII

Moderator: Kellene O’Hara (Faculty, UM)

*Location: Ford C*

- Taylor, Anastasia (Graduate Student, JSU) • “Urban Blight”
- Haraway, Britt (Faculty, UT - Rio Grande Valley) • “All That Hotty Toddy”
- Perez, Emmy (Faculty, UT - Rio Grande Valley) • “It’s Not the Cotton’s Fault”

### Panel 3: Legacies

Moderator: Almas Khan (Faculty, UM)

*Location: Ford D*

- Han, John (Faculty, MBU) • “The Blind Side of the Social Gospel: Blacks in Harold Bell Wright’s Ozarks Fiction”
- Petersen, Robert (Independent Scholar, MTSU) • “Notes on the Natchez Slave Trade: Joseph Holt Ingraham’s *The South-West by a Yankee*” (1835)
- Stewart, Kate (Faculty, UA - Monticello) • “Is There a Decline in the Southern Dialect? Sho’ly Not!”

**3:30 - 5 pm - Session I: Benjamin F. Fisher  
American Literature Panel**

**5:30 pm - Closing Reception / Cocktail Party**

*Location: McCormick's and Ford D*

Moderator: Melanie Anderson (Faculty, DSU)

*Location: Ford B/C*

- Hawkins, Ph.D., Cassandra (Graduate Student, UM) • "Resilient Voices and Southern Identity in the Works of Mississippi Writers"
- Williams, Diane (Independent Scholar) • "A Discussion of Mississippi Writers Included in Mississippi Museums"
- Zheng, John (Faculty, MVSU) • "River and Land: Poetic Voices of the Mississippi Delta"

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS:

### *Exodus Oktavia Brownlow*

Exodus Oktavia Brownlow is a writer, sewist, and editor currently residing in the enchanting pine tree forest of Blackhawk, MS. She is a budding beekeeper, a rising seamstress who has perfected the French Seam by hand, and the author of two book collections—a debut fiction chapbook called "Look at All the Little Hurts of These Newly-Broken Lives and The Bittersweet, Sweet and Bitter Loves" with Ethel Zine and Press and a debut book collection of essays called "I'm Afraid That I Know Too Much About Myself Now, To Go Back to Who I Knew Before, And Oh Lord, Who Will I Be After I've Known All That I Can?" with ELJ Editions. Exodus's favorite color is green.



### *W. Ralph Eubanks*

Ralph Eubanks is Black Power at Ole Miss Faculty Fellow and the author of *The House at the End of the Road: The Story of Three Generations of an Interracial Family in the American South* and *Ever Is a Long Time: A Journey into Mississippi's Dark Past*, which *Washington Post* book critic Jonathan Yardley named as one of the best nonfiction books of the year. He has contributed articles to the *Washington Post* Outlook and Style sections, the *Wall Street Journal*, *WIRED*, the *New Yorker*, and National Public Radio. He is a recipient of a 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation and has been a fellow at the New America Foundation. He is the former editor of the *Virginia Quarterly Review* at the University of Virginia and served as director of publishing at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., from 1995 to 2013.

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