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New Voices Conference 2009 Pamphlet

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**Guest and Key Note Speakers**

**John R. Decker**

is assistant professor for Art History at GSU’s School of Art & Design. Dr. Decker is a specialist in the art of the Netherlands and Belgium and focuses on religious and devotional images. His main research interests center on the formation of identity from the late fourteenth through the seventeenth centuries. Decker focuses his research on the roles of meditation and devotion in the formation of the soul. He is also interested in all manner of religious behavior from personal piety, to life in the monastery, to public rites such as feast days and pilgrimages.

**Randy Malamud**

Is professor and associate chair at GSU’s Department of English. He teaches courses in Modern Literature, Ecocriticism, and Cultural Studies, and has published several books and articles on these subjects, including two books about T. S. Eliot's drama. His research is inspired by Mesoamerican conceptions of animals, and animals' parity with people, as embodied in their beliefs concerning animal souls. His book, Poetic Animals and Animal Souls, addresses a wider set of venues and tropes that human culture offers for the viewing/framing of animals.

**Paul Schmidt**

Is associate professor for Victorian prose and literary theory at GSU. Dr. Schmidt seeks to balance an appreciation of textual integrity with a willingness to entertain the possibility that the texts themselves invite readers to see them as artifacts whose purpose and value are constantly in question. His interest lies in the imbroglio between Charles Kingsley and John Henry Newman, on which he has published multiple essays, as well as in Victorian culture in general. His book, No-Popery: Catholic-Protestant Conflict in the Newman-Kingsley Debate, is nearing its final stages. Dr. Schmidt also is the editor of Studies in the Literary Imagination.
WELCOME TO NEW VOICES 2009

The 10th Annual New Voices Graduate Student Conference focuses on representations of the Apocalypse as they manifest throughout history, across cultures, and in language. The conference committee invites papers that draw thematically from such academic disciplines as literary criticism and theory, poetry, fiction, philosophy, religious studies, medieval and renaissance studies, art history, biblical history, cultural geography, and folklore. We also welcome papers exploring the rhetoric of the apocalypse, which may range from interrogations of the political rhetoric of alarmism to the religious rhetoric of technology-age theology.

This year’s theme, From Ragnarök to Rapture: Literature and Rhetoric of the Apocalypse, has drawn the attention for scholars from various disciplines, such as English, comparative literature, film criticism, and the creative arts. Presenters so far on the docket include a wide variety of GSU students—for whom New Voices was originally designed—as well as young scholars from other departments and even from other countries.

Select presentations range from dragons as emblems of change and disaster in medieval literature, to Marilyn Manson and the capitalist consumerism of the image of the Anti-Christ, and from Samuel Beckett and the epistemology of the stage, to a post-apocalyptic reading of zombies and the undead in modern film.

To accompany this year’s proceedings, the conference will offer additional activities, creative readings of original fiction, a job-market and professionalization panel, a tribute to horror and apocalypse writer H.P. Lovecraft, as well as a keynote address by Georgia State University School of Art’s John Decker.

Registration fees ($10 for presenters) will be payable at the registrations table at all days of the conference. While panel attendance, readings, and all other activities are free of charge, registrations fees cover meals provided by the conference committee and the Graduate English Association (GEA).

Further paper submissions and panel suggestions are encouraged. Please see the list of panels (subject to change) for ideas and further information.

---The New Voices Conference Committee

SELECTIVE PREVIEW OF PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS
(Detailed schedule and list of panels will follow)

FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD: APOCALYPTICISM AS RELIGIOUS POETRY, RHETORIC, AND HOPE
Wade Rizzi, Oxford University
“In Pursuit of the Millennia: Robert Crowley’s Changing Concept of Apocalypticism”
Joseph Kelly, Georgia State University
“Doubt, Hope, and Comfort of the Apocalypse: Gerard Manley Hopkins’s Conclusion of the Christian Narrative with Heraclitean Fire and the Comfort of the Resurrection”

AIM FOR THE HEAD: READING ZOMBIES AND THE UNDEAD IN POST-APOCALYPTIC FILM
David Ray Carter, Film Critic, Birmingham
“From Local to Global Apocalypses: Lucio Fulci’s Zombi 2, City of the Living Dead, The Beyond, and The House by the Cemetery”
Tim Lanzendörfer, Johannes-Gutenberg University Mainz
“Almost Apocalypse: Max Brook’s World War Z and Apocalyptic Fears in Zombie Form”

Wasteland Survival Guide: Tenure-Track Competition in a Post-Graduate-School World
Dr. Eddie Christie (GSU)
Dr. Randy Malamud (GSU)
Dr. Mark Noble (GSU)

Modern Drama: Epistemological and Ontological Exhaustion on the Modern Stage
Amber Estlund, Georgia State University
Fiona McWilliam, Florida State University
Paul Ardoin, Florida State University

A-Pop-Calypse: The Eschatological and Existential in Popular Culture
Patrick Osborne, Georgia State University
“Crafting the Anti-Christ as Superstar: Marilyn Manson and the Mechanics of Eschatological Narrative”

Watch the Skies! Dragons, Comets, and Other Heavenly Phenomena in Medieval Literature.
Jimmy Crowder, Georgia State University