

About Our Visiting Speaker



Barri J. Gold is Professor and Chair of English Language and Literature at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania and author of *ThermoPoetics: Energy in Victorian Literature and Science* (The M.I.T. Press, 2010).

Having studied Physics at M.I.T. (B.S.1988) and Language and Literature at the University of Chicago (Ph.D. 1995), she is interested in the many interactions of literature and science, especially among the Victorians. Her current courses include *Science on Stage*, *Reading Austen*, *The Death of the Sun and Gender*, *Sensation & the Novel*. Her talk is drawn from her current book project, tentatively entitled *Experiments in Novel Ecologies*.

Symposium Organizers

Donald Carpenter, Lindsay Graham, Alexander Lowe McAdams, and Clint Wilson III

Faculty Sponsor

Professor Sarah Ellenzweig

With generous support from:
*Rice University Dean of Humanities
and the Department of English*



Department of English Annual Symposium
Friday, February 17–Saturday, February 18, 2017
The Kyle Morrow Room | Fondren Library | Rice University

Friday, February 17, 2017

3:00–3:30 p.m.: Check-in & Coffee

3:30–4:45 p.m.: “Forms of Discourse”

Michael Miller, Rice University, Chair/Respondent

E Spencer, “Remediating Genre: Atomic Speculation in SF Poetry from Cavendish to the Pulps” (*University of Iowa*)

S.J. Stout, “Mrs. Swithin’s Doll House: The Home Tour as an Alternative Pageant Form in *Between the Acts*” (*West Virginia University*)

Luke Tesdal, “Deceiving Your Friends and Relatives: Basic Forms of Discourse” (*University of Texas at Arlington*)

5:00–6:30 p.m.: Keynote Address

Professor Barri J. Gold, “Novel Ecologies, or, Musings on the Possible Contributions of Literary Studies to the Present Ecological Crisis” (*Muhlenberg College*)

Walk to Twilight Epiphany to follow (weather permitting)

Saturday, February 18, 2017

9:30–10:00 a.m.: Coffee & Small Bites

10:00–11:15 a.m.: “Deep, Deep, Distant Time”

Professor Judith Roof, Rice University, Chair/Respondent

Clint Wilson, “Chlorine: Toxicity and the Literature of Aftermath” (*Rice University*)

Els Woudstra, “Strata: Excavating the Cyclical Geography of Erasmus Darwin’s *The Economy of Vegetation*” (*Rice University*)

Kevin MacDonnell, “Loom: Making Human Bodies, Making Industrial Technology” (*Rice University*)

Saturday, February 18, 2017 (cont’d)

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.: “Master Class Undergraduates: Performance & Presentation”

Joseph Carson, Rice University, Chair/Respondent

12:30–2:00 p.m.: Lunch

2:00–3:15 p.m.: “Theories of the Human & Posthuman”

Professor Sarah Ellenzweig, Rice University, Chair/Respondent

Hue Woodson, “Two Posthumanisms: A Difference in ‘What It Means to be Human’ in the Posthumanist Forms of Bruno Latour and Rosi Braidotti” (*University of Texas at Arlington*)

Michael Miller, “Humanities without the Human: A Provocation” (*Rice University*)

Ryan J. Burden, “Notes on Posthumanist Fiction: Virtuality and Multiplicity” (*University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*)

3:30–4:45 p.m.: “Premodern Forms”

Professor Caroline Levander, Rice University, Chair/Respondent

Michelle Oakes, “Time, Grief, and Reading: Cameron and Cavell Reading Emerson’s ‘Experience’” (*Rice University*)

Sam Stoeltje, “Emerson’s Unities of Being and Becoming” (*Rice University*)

Mitchell Therieau, “Lost Worlds, Bleaching Bones: Counterhistories of Abjection in Swamp Literature” (*Tulane University*)

5:00–7:00 p.m.: Closing Reception
Salento, Brochstein Pavilion