

# The Spatial Imagination in Postwar and Contemporary American Literature and Art

University of Strasbourg, March 21-22 2024

Organizers: Sandrine Baudry, Gwen Cressman, Catherine Gander, Hélène Ibata, Monica Manolescu and Will Norman

Organized with the support of the Institut Universitaire de France and UR SEARCH 2325, University of Strasbourg

Venue: [Maison Interuniversitaire des Sciences de l'Homme – Alsace](#)  
5 allée du Général Rouvillois, 67083 Strasbourg



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## PROGRAMME

March 21, 2024

Maison Interuniversitaire des Sciences de l'Homme – Alsace

9h-9h30 Registration and opening remarks

9h30-11h Dawn Raffel, Boundless Space: Inner and Outer Landscapes and the Fluid Horizon of Time

Salle de conférence

11h-11h30 refreshments

11h30-13h parallel sessions 1 and 2

Session 1. Site-specificity in American poetry and art

Salle de conférence

Timothy Anderson (Pratt Institute/Pace University), "Space, Time, & Architectonics"—Robert Lax's Site-Specific Poetics

**Monica Manolescu** (University of Strasbourg/Institut Universitaire de France), On the Margins of Land Art: Michelle Stuart's Sites of Memory

**David Reckford** (Cergy Paris Université), Recapturing a part of the Appalachians for contemporary poetry: Lee Ann Brown's *In the Laurels, Caught* (2013)

**Session 2. Space and identity in contemporary American literature**  
**Salle de la table ronde**

**Angelica De Vido** (University of Oxford), "I'm Crazy About this City": Remapping New York in Women's Literature

**Steven Forbes** (University of Edinburgh), Cubistic Time and the Phenomenology of Space in William Demby's *The Catacombs*

**Esther Claudio** (University of Iowa), Queer Spatial Imagination in Bishakh Som's *Apsara Engine and Scenes from a Gender*

13h-14h Lunch

14h-15h30 2 parallel sessions 3 and 4

**Session 3. Mapping and exploration in literature and photography**  
**Salle de conférence**

**Julien Nègre** (ENS Lyon/Institut Universitaire de France), Exploring Jack Kerouac's cartographic archives at the NYPL, 1947-1969

**Talal Hochard** (Université de Lorraine), The Beat Generation's Reimagination of Space: Harmonizing Consciousness, the Wilderness, and the City

**James Swensen** (Brigham Young University), Lunarscapes: An Exploration of the Effects of NASA Imagery on the Photographers of the Photo-Boom

**Session 4. The spatial and temporal imagination of Blackness**  
**Salle de la table ronde**

**Michael Docherty** (University of Innsbruck), Making Space for Blackness in Literary and Cinematic California

**Sherry Lee Linkon** (Georgetown University), Complicating the Deindustrial Spatial Imaginary: Literary and Photographic Visions of Black Lives in Deindustrialized Places

**Sabine Metzger** (University of Stuttgart), "The Perfume of Place:" Topophilia, Geographical Self and J. Drew Lanham's *The Home Place*

15h30-16h refreshments

16h-17h30 parallel sessions 5 and 6

**Session 5. Space and intermediality**  
**Salle de conférence**

**Yasna Bozhkova** (Université Paris Nanterre), "A Different Sort of Space": The Poetics and Politics of Space and Scale in Jen Bervin's Work

**Marie Bouchet** (Université de Toulouse), De-automatizing Spatial Perception: Nabokov's Intermedial Take on American Space

**Sophia Hörl** (Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich), Spatial (In)Justice in Literary Landscapes of "Shamescapes" and "Otherwheres": June Jordan's illustrated poem *Who Look at Me?* (1969)

**Session 6. Architectures of inclusion and exclusion**  
**Salle de la table ronde**

**Sofie Behluli** (University of Bern), Inside the Museum: A Look at Some US-American Novels on Visual Art

**Eric Nay** (OCAD University, Toronto), Re-Imagining Architecture: Postwar America's Pedagogies, Spaces and Imaginaries

**Jo Pawlik** (University of Sussex), Spatialising (anti-)fascism in the 1960s and 70s: The campus and the courthouse

19h conference dinner

**March 22, 2024**

**Maison Interuniversitaire des Sciences de l'Homme – Alsace**

9h30-11h **Judith Madera** (Wake Forest University), Land Bridges and Ecologies of Home  
**Salle de conférence**

11h-11h30 refreshments

11h30-13h parallel sessions 7 and 8

**Session 7. Crossing boundaries: from linear to multidimensional spaces**  
**Salle de conférence**

**Corinne Scheiner and Kate Leonard** (Colorado College), Actualizing Space: From Point, Line, and Square to Multiview

**Elizabeth Moulin** (Sorbonne Université), “Am I really nothing more than a suburban mom?”: reclaiming the feminine space in Chris Ware’s *Building Stories* (2012)

**Ioana Costandache Apetroae** (Dalarna University), Transcending Boundaries: Quantum Narratives and Multidimensional Artsapes in Postwar American Literature and Avant-Garde Installations

**Session 8. Scales: the intimate and the political**  
**Salle de la table ronde**

**Joanne Vrignaud** (Université Paris Nanterre), ‘Indians ain’t supposed to feel sorry for cowboys’: narratives of territorial change in Sheridan’s *Hell or High Water* (2016)

**Benjamin Robbins** (University of Innsbruck), Queer Exile and the Cold War Transatlantic Novels of James Baldwin and Patricia Highsmith

**India Harris** (University of Cambridge), Elizabeth Bishop's Littoral Poetics

13h-14h30 Lunch

14h30-16h **Session 9. Local/global/cosmological imaginaries**  
**Salle de conférence**

**Aurore Clavier** (Université Paris Cité), “Here you may enter galactic memory”: Joy Harjo’s involuted spaces

**Wesley Moore** (University of Erlangen), Mediating Material Space: Art, Literature, and the Limits of Neoliberalism in Ben Lerner’s Fiction

**Edwin Gilson** (University of Surrey), Planetary Los Angeles: The Global Imagination of LA Anthropocene Fiction

End of conference

