

Re-Examining American Literature (REAL) Student Symposium

“You’ll know Her – by Her Vest:”

Objects in American Literature and Culture

(Online Symposium, MS Teams)

Saturday, March 22, 2025

The Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland

PROGRAM

9:00-9:15	CONFERENCE OPENING	
9:15-10:30	KEYNOTE LECTURE: “Objects, natural or not, in the medium/milieu of the poem: Vitalist positions in Whitman, Stevens, Ashbery, and others” Prof. Kacper Bartczak (University of Łódź, Poland) Chair: Paulina Ambroży	
10:30-10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45-12:45	SESSION 1: Fashionable Objects Chair: Paweł Stachura <u>Gayle Kennedy</u> (King’s College London, UK): “American women never dress for themselves”: Material culture, social mobility and gender identity in Simone de Beauvoir’s 1947 travelogue, <i>America Day by Day</i> <u>Gülce Tuğba Kuntasal</u> (TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara, Turkey): Tess Gallagher and Clothing: What Pieces of Clothing Symbolize in Her Poetry <u>Anastasia Lisovenko</u> (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany): Barbie Dreamhouse: Six Decades of Material Culture and Settler Colonial Legacies <u>Agnieszka Ewa Rudzka</u> (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland): More than just a toy? How Sonny Angels became our best friends	SESSION 2: The Human and Posthuman Chair: Małgorzata Olsza <u>Andreea Moise</u> (University of Bucharest, Romania): Domesticizing Queerness, Queering the Domestic: (Un)Natural Objects and Food in <i>Tender Buttons</i> <u>Helena Paoli</u> (Università degli Studi di Bari “Aldo Moro”, Italy): Escaping Reality: Objects as Symbolic Doors in Tennessee Williams’ <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> <u>Betiel Anghesom Negash</u> (Independent scholar, Italy): The Aestheticization of Heritage: Everyday Objects as Symbols of Cultural Identity in Alice Walker’s <i>Everyday Use</i> <u>Hanna Stelmaszczyk</u> (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland): Ghosts of real life: Documents, photographs, and maps in Alison Bechdel’s <i>Fun Home</i>
12:45-13:30	Lunch Break	

13:30-15:30	<p>SESSION 3: Survival and Identity</p> <p>Chair: Katarzyna Macedulska</p> <p><u>Iga Cemer-Matysewicz</u> (University of Białystok, Poland): Objects as storytellers: The representation of the Shoah in Cynthia Ozick's <i>The Shawl</i></p> <p><u>Weronika Dziurleja</u> (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland): The tar babies of <i>Tar Baby</i> by Toni Morrison</p> <p><u>Joanna Szymaniak</u> (University of Warsaw, Poland): Materializing Objection: The objects, Identity and the Survivor's Narrative in Chanel Miller's <i>Know My Name: A Memoir</i></p> <p><u>Bianka Stefańska</u> (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland): House, Home, and Nature in the literature of Native Americans</p>	<p>SESSION 4: (Un)Natural Objects</p> <p>Chair: Paulina Ambroży</p> <p><u>Piotr Matczak</u> (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland): "That's the production schedule": Dehumanizing postal workers in Charles Bukowski's <i>Post Office</i> (1971)</p> <p><u>Marta Parrondo González</u> (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain): The object for liberation in late 19th century realist short story: The cases of Kate Chopin and Mary Wilkins Freeman</p> <p><u>Claudia Alea Parrondo</u> (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain): The role of Morton's concept of Hyperobjects in Juliana Spahr's <i>Gentle Now, Don't Add to Heartache</i></p> <p><u>Elena Signore</u> (G. D'Annunzio" University in Chieti-Pescara, Italy): How Objects Become Things and Affect Our Lives: Analysis of three short stories from <i>The four million</i> by O. Henry</p>
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45-17:15	<p>SESSION 5: Cinematic Objects</p> <p>Chair: Jacek Fabiszak</p> <p><u>Lara Braun</u> (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany): Narrating Tragedies: Material Agency in <i>Zero Day</i> (2003) and <i>I'm Not Ashamed</i> (2016)</p> <p><u>Alicia Martínez-Martín</u> (University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU, Spain): Reflections as Agents of Significance: Dissociation and Self-Identification through Windows, Pictures, and Mirrors</p> <p><u>Laura Ciriza</u> (Universidad del País Vasco / Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea, Spain): "It's not a very comfortable seat": The Iron Throne as a Gothic Object in <i>A Song of Ice and Fire</i></p>	<p>SESSION 6: Haunting Materialities of the Gothic</p> <p>Chair: Justyna Fruzińska</p> <p><u>Anna Bartnicka</u> (University of Wrocław, Poland): Material Objects as Negotiators of Belonging in a Selection of Short Stories of Shirley Jackson</p> <p><u>Julia Bednarczyk</u> (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland): The Rotting Family, the Rotting House: An Examination of a Domestic Space as an Embodiment of Negligence in Jeffrey Eugenides's <i>The Virgin Suicides</i></p> <p><u>Cisemnaz Cil</u> (Hacettepe University, Turkey): Haunted Reflections: The Material and Spectral Lives of Mirrors in American Gothic Fiction</p>
17:15	CONFERENCE CLOSING	

You can join us on MS Teams as of 8:45 a.m. – we'll be online :)