

**Devils and Daemons**

An Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference

Presented by the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students in English

August 7th - 9th, 2019

Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS

## ***Wednesday, August 7***

- 12:00 - 12:45      **Registration** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences Lobby; Front Entrance)
- 12:45 - 1:45      **Session 1A: Daemons in Great Britain** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences 2016)  
Chair: Jacqui Deighton
- Sharon Vogel** (Dalhousie University)  
“All the devils are here’: Witchcraft and Government in *The Tempest*”
- Jeff Swim and Samuel Hacker** (Western University)  
“An old mystery played in our day’: Pan and the Late Victorian Pagan Revival”
- Session 1B: Historical Traces** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences 2017)  
Chair: Sara Ameri
- Catherine Leisser** (Concordia University)  
“Taking the Devil’s Name in Vain?”
- Soroush Raigani** (University of Ottawa)  
“Playing With Fire: Myths and Parables of the Devil in Philosophy and Religion”
- 1:45 - 2:00      **Coffee Break** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences Lobby)

2:00 - 3:30

**Session 2A: Medicine and Madness** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences 2016)

Chair: Sharon Vogel

**Emily Maggiacomo** (University of Manitoba)

“The Ghostly Figure Which Has Haunted These Pages’: Figuring the Mad as Supernatural Beings in Victorian Literature”

**Roisin Boyle** (University of British Columbia)

“Depression in Pieces: Major Depressive Disorder in the *DSM-5*”

**Session 2B: Resonances and Retellings** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences 2017)

Chair: Helen Pinsent

**Payton Chapley** (Ryerson University)

“Why We Build the Wall: Death, Industry, and the Enemies of the Underworld in Anaïs Mitchell’s *Hadestown*”

**Alexandra Black** (Concordia University)

“‘To see with eyes unclouded’: The Roles of Spirits and Demons in Hayao Miyazaki’s *Princess Mononoke*”

**Sean Rhoads** (Queen’s University)

“The Contemporary Prometheus; or, A Gothic Comparison of Monsters and Demons in Shelley’s *Frankenstein* and Simmons’s *The Terror*”

3:30 - 4:00

**Coffee Break** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences Lobby)

4:00 - 4:15

**Welcome and Opening Remarks** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences, Scotiabank Auditorium)

**Jason Haslam** (Department of English, Dalhousie University)

**Michael Cameron** (Conference Organizer)

4:15 - 5:45

**Keynote Address** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences, Scotiabank Auditorium)

Moderator: Michael Cameron

**Dr. Kathy Cawsey** (Dalhousie University)

“Tutivillus: The Politics of the Writing Demon”

In medieval sermons and exempla, a little demon runs around picking up the syllables monks drop in their prayers to put in his sack to weigh on Judgement Day, or sits on the shoulders of women gossiping in church writing down everything they say. Scholars have dubbed Tutivillus "the writing demon" and have long recognized that there are two strands to the tale (the sack-bearing demon, associated with monks and clerics, and the writing demon, associated with chattering women). However, they have been unable to explain why the two strands exist. This paper will argue that examining the images of language in the two tales shows that there are political and power-related motivations underpinning the two strands of the tales.

## ***Thursday, August 8***

8:30 - 9:00      **Registration - Coffee and Snacks** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences Lobby; Front Entrance)

9:00 - 10:30    **Session 3A: Hauntings** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences 2016)  
Chair: Krista Collier-Jarvis

**Adrien Robertson** (Carleton University)

“The Time is Never Right: Haunting and Cosmic Horror in Night in the Woods”

**Rachel Narvey** (University of Alberta)

“Opening ‘the casket/void’: Reading Tom Phillips’ *A Humument* for its Hauntological Resonances”

**Jay Dittburner** (Ryerson University)

“Specters & Trauma: A Look into the Reality of Ghosts”

**Session 3B: Evil and Pop Culture** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences 2017)

Chair: Payton Chapley

**Emily Scherzinger** (McMaster University)

“Making a Monster: Serial Killers and the Mutilation of Meaning”

**Caleb Nichols** (California Polytechnic State University)

“For/Against Demons: Romantic Anti-Capitalism in Blake and Yorke”

**Robert Sparrow-Downes** (York University)

“Charles Baudelaire’s *Les Fleurs du mal*: Ennui, the City, and the Transmutation of “Evil” Into Art”

10:30 - 11:00 **Coffee Break** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences Lobby)

11:00 - 12:30 **Session 4A: Mothers and Motherhood** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences 2016)  
Chair: Helen Pinsent

**Lucinda Holdsworth** (University of Glasgow)  
“The Devil and his Mother: Erasure of the Divine Feminine in Satanic Pop Culture”

**Joti Bilkhu** (York University)  
“Neil Gaiman’s *Coraline*: Interrogating Mother(hood) Through Demonization”

**Jamie Koehn** (Dalhousie University)  
“Life is Not Always as It Seems’: Storytelling and Narrativization in *The Babadook*”

**Session 4B: Magic** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences 2017)  
Chair: Brenna Duperron

**Martin Arno** (University of Toronto)  
“Exploitation of Demonic Labor in *The Testament of Solomon*”

**Tyler Hoskin** (York University)  
“Magic, Literacy, and Scholarly Responsibility: A Monastic/Scholastic Model of Magic and Morality in Ursula Le Guin’s *A Wizard of Earthsea*”

**Kent Peters** (University of Toronto)  
“Magic, Daemons, and Exorcism in the Works of Tertullian: Tertullian’s Theological Defence of Christian Supernatural Powers”

12:30 - 1:30      **Lunch — Provided** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences Lobby)

1:30 - 2:30      **Session 5A: Witches and Witchcraft** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences 2016)  
Chair: Jacqui Deighton

**Emma Croll-Baehre** (McMaster University)  
Between Liberty and Oppression: Queer Witchcraft as 'Enchanting' Infrastructure and Object

**Brenna Goodwin-McCabe** (University of British Columbia)  
The Devil's Doornail: *Häxan* and the Cinematic Witch

**Session 5B: Reinterpretation, Appropriation, and Transformation** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences 2017)  
Chair: Gabby Mills

**Adrian Downey** (University of New Brunswick)  
Mi'kmaw 'Devils': Good and Evil in *The Stone Canoe* and *Taapoategl and Pallet*

**Jan Leung** (University of British Columbia)  
Div Akvan: 16th Century Portrayals of a Demon in *Shahnama*, Persia's "Book of Kings"

2:30 - 3:00      **Coffee Break** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences Lobby)

3:00 - 4:30

**Keynote Address** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences, Scotiabank Auditorium)

Moderator: Michael Cameron

**Dr. Gary Waite** (University of New Brunswick)

“The Reformation Devil: between belief and skepticism in early modern Europe.”

By the 16th century the devil was the puppet master over hordes of rebellious humans who sought the destruction of Christian society, leading to the execution of hundreds of European women and men. During the early Reformation, c. 1520 to c. 1560, attention turned from witches to heretics again as the devil’s agents. Witch hunting was then revived in 1562, and not ending until the late 17th century or later in Europe. Reformed theology, however, also sowed the seeds of skepticism about the devil’s very existence. One Dutch heretic, the artist David Joris (1501-56), took the Reformed emphasis on salvation as an internal affair to its logical extreme by internalizing demons as one’s inner vices that could be rendered powerless. The debate over his unorthodox demonology helped end witch trials in the Dutch Republic and, I suggest, shaped nonconformist thinking on the supernatural that helped make possible the removal of the devil from the natural world that was a feature of the Enlightenment. It was not however until the 1640s – the decade of the Essex witch panic – when the English were made aware of Joris’s denial of demons, and news of his deeply unorthodox idea, I argue, helped English elites to reconsider the devil’s existence.

4:30 - 6:00

**Reception** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences; English Department Lounge)



## **Friday, August 9**

8:30 - 9:00      **Coffee and Snacks** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences Lobby)

9:00 - 10:30    **Session 6A: Performance and Spectacle** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences 2016)  
Chair: Brittany Kraus

**Adrienne Andrus** (McMaster University)  
“Female-Created Gender-Neutral ASMR Vampire Roleplay as Feminist Intervention in Paranormal Romance Genre”

**Zachary Doirin** (Concordia University)  
“The Devil’s Playground: Performance and Conservative Religious Identity in Evangelical Hell Houses”

**Marta Croll-Baehre** (McMaster University)  
“Mud Wrestling on the Land: Spectacles of Excess, Spatial Practices, and Mythologies in Eastern Ontario Radical Faerie Circle”

**Session 6B: Possession, Exorcism, and Agency** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences 2017)  
Chair: Cheryl Hann

**Amanda Burrows** (University of Saskatchewan)  
“Meat Suits: Posthumanism in *Supernatural*”

**Katarina Pejovic** (University of Toronto)  
“For the Devil and His Wife: The Reflections and Transgressions of Exu and Pomba Gira”

**Chelsea Hemmings** (Concordia University)  
“Fear, Control and Agency among Buddhist Laity during the Hungry Ghost Festival”

10:30 - 11:00 **Coffee Break** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences Lobby)

11:00 - 12:30 **Session 7A: Persistent Myths and Figures** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences 2016)  
Chair: Michael Cameron

**Cassia Finkelstein** (York University)

“Jews as Demons, Witches as Jews: An Exploration of the Continued Use of Demonization of the Jewish People in Modern Children’s Media”

**Christine Campana and Jeff Swim** (Western University)

“Scepticism, Scopophilia, and Sasquatch in Pop Culture and Eden Robinson’s *Monkey Beach*”

**Session 7B: Goddesses, Oracles, and Seers** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences 2017)

Chair: Emily Scherzinger

**Yasmina Jaksic** (York University)

“‘Only in Spiritual Terror Can the Truth Come Through the Broken Mind’ – Madness and Mythology in Sylvia Plath and Anne Sexton”

**Sara Hailstone** (Trent University)

“Jenny O’Hara Pincock”

**Sara Ameri** (University of Toronto)

“‘The evil genius of nonmeaning’: The Demonic Mystery of the Showings of Julian of Norwich”

12:30 - 1:00 **Conference Wrap-up** (Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences Lobby)

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