MCEAS Biennial Graduate Student Conference:
Fear and Desire
Early America and Its Discontents

For more information or to register, visit the conference website at: www.mceas.org/gradconference09/

MCEAS
Fear and Desire: Early America and its Discontents
University of Pennsylvania
3355 Woodland Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104-4531.

Conference mail can be directed to:

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Special Thanks To:

Amy Baxter-Bellamy and Alla Vilnyansky for their patient assistance, and to the following individuals for their generous contributions in support of this conference: Sarah Dennis, Shona Johnston, Marcia Nichols, Joshua Ratner, Jason Sharples, Laura Keenan-Spero, Megan Walsh, and Dan Richter.

Sponsored By:
The Barra Foundation
The McNeil Center for Early American Studies
The Andrew W. Mellon Early American Literature and Material Texts Initiative

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Back: “Young as I was then, the iron entered into my soul,” in “Truth Is Stranger Than Fiction”: An Autobiography of the Rev. Josiah Henson (Boston, 1879)

Inside top: “Terror,” in The Juvenile Lavater (New York, 1815)

Conference Schedule

Thursday, September 24, 2009
McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 3355 Woodland Walk

4:30 – 5:15 p.m. Registration and Refreshments
5:15 – 5:30 p.m. Welcome and Introductory Comments

Panel 1: Tremblings
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Chair: Philip Mead, Harvard University
Jonathan Hancock, Dartmouth College
*God is angry about this!: Cherokees, Missionaries, and the Meanings of the New Madrid Earthquakes, 1811-1812*

John Legrand, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
*Society, Politics, and Control of the Unknowns: Natural Hazards and the Creation of Disasters in Early America*

Neal Polhemus, College of Charleston
*Nothing but Death before my Eyes! Mending Broken Spirits and Repairing Defensive Walls in Colonial Charles Town*

Andrew Wehrman, Northwestern University
*James the Satiric and the Politics of Medicine in Revolutionary Salem, Massachusetts*

Optional dinner to follow at Sitar, 60 S. 38th St, Philadelphia (Between Chestnut St. and Sansom St.)

Friday, September 25, 2009
Franklin Hall, American Philosophical Society, 427 Chestnut St.

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. Coffee and Bagels

Panel 2: Puritan Angst
8:45 – 10:45 a.m. Chair: Amy Paeth, University of Pennsylvania
Glenda Goodman, Harvard University
*Singling Psalms and Fearful Sounds in 1670s Massachusetts*

Samantha Cohen, University of California, Irvine
*The Problem of Credit*: Doctrinal Anxieties in Mary Rowlandson’s Captivity Narrative

Christopher Moses, Princeton University
*Witches, War and Worries about Money in 1690s Massachusetts*

Strother E. Roberts, Northwestern University
*Turpentine and Tragedy: A Case of Violent Resource Competition in the Colonial Connecticut Valley*

Panel 3: Riches and Ruin
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Chair: Elena Schneider, Princeton University
Stephen Hagie, University of Oxford
*Wanting Capacity, Lacking Patience: Filial Duty and the Desire for Success in the British Atlantic World*

Brenna Shae O’Rourke, Temple University
*Mary Lum Girard’s Discontent of Mind*: Madness, Merchants, and Marriage in the Eighteenth-Century Mid-Atlantic

Tawny Paul, University of Edinburgh
*Fear, Desire and the Business Strategies of Artisans and Traders in Colonial Philadelphia*

12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch (on own)

Panel 4: Deviance and Deceit
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Chair: Joshua Ratner, University of Pennsylvania

Panel 5: Contesting Empires
8:45 – 10:45 a.m. Chair: Marcia Nichols, University of South Carolina
James Coltrain, Northwestern University
*Anxious Defenders: Fort Architecture and Imperial Identity in the Atlantic World*

Adrian Finucane, Harvard University
*Anglo-Spanish Caribbean Interconnections, 1713-1739*

Heidi Scott Giusto, Duke University
*Enemies Foreign and Domestic*: Fear and Anxiety in Colonial South Carolina During the Era of the War of Jenkins’ Ear

Karen Sherry, University of Delaware
*A Rebus Dialogue between Britain and America: The Problematics of Representation in the Colonial World*

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. Coffee and Bagels

Panel 6: Spectacular Bodies
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Chair: Megan Walsh, Temple University
Susan Brandt, Temple University
*Pennsylvania Hospital’s Eighteenth Century Anatomical Casts*

Christian DuComb, Brown University
*Performances of Fear and Desire in the Meschianza and Slaves in Algiers*

Mairin Odle, New York University
*On the Management of the Scalped Head*: Bodily Evidence of Encounter and Survival

12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch (on own)

Panel 7: Freedom and Unfreedom
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Chair: Paul Conrad, University of Texas at Austin
Bronwen Everill, King’s College London
*Colonization by Any Other Name: Emigration, Manifest Destiny, and African American Identity in the Early Republic*

Mara S. Thomas, University of Virginia

Keynote Address
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Clare Lyons, University of Maryland College Park

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Reception

Saturday, September 26, 2009
McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 3355 Woodland Walk

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. Coffee and Bagels

Panel 5: Contesting Empires
8:45 – 10:45 a.m. Chair:  Marcia Nichols, University of South Carolina
James Coltrain, Northwestern University
*Anxious Defenders: Fort Architecture and Imperial Identity in the Atlantic World*

Adrian Finucane, Harvard University
*Anglo-Spanish Caribbean Interconnections, 1713-1739*

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Keynote Address
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6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Reception

All panels are free and open to the public. For more information or to register, call MCEAS at 215-898-9251 or email mceas@ccat.sas.upenn.edu.