

Queen's Graduate Conference in Literature Queen's University, the Department of English Literature and Creative Writing, and QGCL are situated on the territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples. This territory is included in the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe nations to peaceably share and take care of the resources of the Great Lakes. Later, settlers and other newcomers were invited to join the covenant. It is our responsibility to take care of this land and the beings who live here, to share its resources, recognize each others' needs, and ensure that the Dish is never empty.

As QGCL 2025 brings together people from across the world to share knowledge, we encourage all those present to take the time to learn about the lands they are situated on at home, at university, and here. The QGCL committee stands with all Indigenous Peoples across the globe as they fight for the right to live on their lands, to enjoy its resources, and to live free from oppression.

Land Acknowledgment

Organizers' Welcome

In the tumultuous moment of history where we currently exist, the theme of "Liminal Prospects" is more significant than it has ever been before. Exploring the unexplored, expecting the unexpected, and remembering the forgotten is essential to us as burgeoning academics enter into a new world of conflict, change, and uncertainty. With the onset of AI technology, multiple political conflicts, and atrocities such as the genocide actively happening in Palestine, we are stuck within a liminal framework ourselves. Within this liminality, we are tasked with finding our own paths forward, our own prospects, by further exploring and understanding our own positionality.

With the theme of this year's QGCL, which was carefully crafted by our thematic directors Sabrina Zacharias and Valentina Gaio, we are able to explore and understand this complex time we are in, and our own position within it through the liminal worlds around us.

Organizers' Welcome

We enter this shared liminal place due to the hard work of our different committee members and supporters. Thank you to Valentina and Sabrina for creating a fabulous and poignant conference theme and to our creative directors Vera Hadzic, Suzie Deschambault, Katelyn Luymes, and Lauren MacKenzie for their role in adapting this to fit our creative submissions.

We also want to say an enthusiastic welcome and thank you to our keynote and plenary speakers, Nancy Jo Cullen and Dr. Veronika Kratz, for their opening and closing remarks, which help to frame and embody this conference's themes. Thank you, as well, to Sara Smith for helping to organize these fabulous speakers and ensure their participation with us this year. Thank you to April McInnes and Sophie Been who have worked tirelessly ensuring proper communication between our team and our participants, as well as Devon Harvey for ensuring that everything runs smoothly electronically.

Thank you to all of those who helped select our amazing panellists, those who are moderating panels, and of course to our panellists themselves. We could not be more excited about the diverse and interesting papers that will be presented this year.

Organizers' Welcome

A very special thanks must be said to our Department Head, Dr. Sam McKegney, our Department Manager, Meghan Brien, and our Graduate Assistant, Jesse Sibanda, for their support, enthusiasm, and guidance in the creation of this conference, and their continued support of Graduate Students and their work.

We cannot be more excited to join in this conversation of Liminal Prospects with all of you, and we want to take one final moment to thank you all so much for being part of QGCL 2025. We hope that you can use this as a chance to connect with peers, discuss ideas, and explore your own connections to the theme of Liminal Prospects.

Wilde Ferris (they/them) and Fred Hook (they/them)

QGCL Organizers

Friday, May 23

1:00 - 2:00 pm Watson Hall 517

Registration & Welcome

2:00 - 3:20 pm Watson Hall 517 Keynote: "Waiting, Spaces, and a Writing Life" with Nancy Jo Cullen

3:20 - 3:30 pm • Coffee Break

3:30 - 5:00 pm Hybrid Panel 1: Liminal Hauntings

7:30 - 9:00 pm 6 Princess Street

 Pub Night at The Merchant Tap House

Saturday, May 24

- 9:00 10:30 am Panel 2: Be(long)ing Hybrid and Embodying
- 10:30 10:40 am Coffee Break
 - 10:40 12:10 pm Panel 3: Mapping Liminality
 - 12:10 1:00 pm Lunch
 - 1:00 2:30 pm Panel 4: Liminal Hybrid Creativity
 - 3:00 4:30 pm Panel 5: Abysses,

 Hybrid Apocalypses, and
 Erasures
 - 7:00 9:00 pm Social: Silly Conference
 Watson Hall, 517 Presentations

Sunday, May 24

9:00 - 10:30 am • Panel 6: Borders & Boundaries

10:30 - 10:40 am • Coffee Break

10:40 - 12:00 pm • Plenary Talk: "Life at the Edges: Liminal Ecosystems in Literature and Culture" with Dr. Veronika Kratz

12:00 - 12:30 pm • Concluding Remarks & Goodbyes



KEYNOTE

Nancy Jo Cullen

Writer-In-Residence at Queen's University

"Waiting, Spaces, and a Writing Life"

Nancy Jo Cullen's poetry and fiction have appeared in several Canadian literary journals and anthologies, including Best Canadian Poetry, Best Canadian Stories and The Journey Prize. Her story "Hashtag Maggie Vandermeer" was also included in the 35 year anniversary edition of, Journey: Celebrating the Journey Prize. She is the 2010 recipient for the Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBTQ2S+ Emerging Writers. Her fourth collection of poetry, Nothing Will Save Your Life, was published by

Wolsak & Wynn in 2022. Her short story collection, *Canary*, was published by Biblioasis in 2013. Her first novel, *The Western Alienation Merit Badge*, was short-listed for the 2020 Amazon Canada First Novel

Award. Her second novel, *Dish*, is slated for publication in spring 2027. She's at work on her third novel.

Panel 1: Liminal Hauntings

Friday, May 23 3:30–5:00 pm | Hybrid

Moderator: Mary Johnson

Reagan Cote

Universit<mark>y</mark> of Northern British Columbia

Writing in the Masculinist Tradition: Literary and Ecological Liminality in Charlotte Smith's Arun River Sonnets

Mariana Chajon Oliveros

Western University

Mind the Step: A Critical Engagement with Sara Ahmed's *Complaint!*

Vivienne Tailor

Claremont Graduate University

Brave Refugee, North Korean "Paris Hilton," or Conservative U.S. Activist?: Deconstructing the Escape Narrative and Public Persona of Park Yeonmi (Virtual)

Patrick Cunningham

Queen's University

Pestilence and Diasporic Fantasties in Rawi Hage's *Cockroach*

Panel 2: Be(long)ing & Embodying

Saturday, May 24 9:00–10:30 am | Virtual

Moderator: Sabrina Zacharias

Anna Gow

University of Saskatchewan

Borderless Identity: Crossing the Border between Belonging and Un-belonging in Dionne Brand's What We All Long For (Virtual)

Patricia Maria Frazis

Australian National University

The Embodiment of Narratorial Voices in the "Lost Children Archive" Audiobook (Virtual)

Luka Stojanovic

Trent University

Navigating the Liminal: Artistic Praxis, Crip Time, and Reimagining Possibility in Chronic Illness Narratives (Virtual)

Gabriela Milkova Robins

University of St Andrews
Godot Possesses
Character in Miodrag
Bulatovic's "Godot Has

Arrived" (Virtual)

Panel 3: Mapping Liminality

Saturday, May 24 10:40-12:10 pm | In person

Moderator: Sophie Been

Kelly Luu

Western University
(Mis)Reading Patients
in Narrative Medicine:
Interpreting Cyborgs
and Rhizomes

Samir Mechel

New York University
/Severance/ and
/American
Psycho/: Two
Generations
of American
Consumerism

Sidney Robichaud

Queen's University
"This Story I Tell You Be
True": Sylvia Hamilton's
Tender Re-Narration of
the Black Atlantic
Archive

Olivia Curran

New York University
Ecological Possibilities
in The Táin: Queen
Medb, Land, and
Identity

Panel 4: Liminal Creativity

Saturday, May 24 1:00-2:30 pm | Virtual

Moderator: Vera Hadzic

Miles Jordan

Louisiana State University
504-907, Liminal
Prospects of Togetherness
in a Changing World
(Virtual)

Frances Libeau

University of Waikato

My cruel enemy

grazes on my pain

and feeds herself

(Virtual)

Gabriela Milkova Robins

University of St Andrews
The Seen and the Unseen:
Poetry as Revelation
(Virtual)

Tabitha Gilbert

University of Sussex Meeting Place (Virtual)

Panel 5: Abysses, Apocalypses, & Erasures

Saturday, May 24 3:00-4:30 pm | Hybrid

Moderator: Nancy Mỹ Nghi La

Erin Paulhus

University of Saskatchewan

(Post-)Apocalyptic Acting: Shakespeare's Plays and Apocalyptic Loss in Emily St. John Mandel's *Station Eleven* and its HBO Max Adaptation

Nicole Flores

Queen's University

Invisible Occupation: Re-Imagining Vancouver's Black Geographies Through the Cracks and Margins

Piotr Wieczorek

University of British Columbia

On the sensuous surface of the abyss - NourbeSe Philip's reclamatory grammars of sacred beauty (Virtual)

Jacqueline Knirnschild

University of Maine

Liminal Gaps: Ecocritical Implications of Ginnungagap, Yawning Voids and the Sea in Icelandic Medieval Imagination, Poetry and Prophecy

Panel 6: Borders & Boundaries

Sunday, May 25 9:00-10:30 am | Virtual

Moderator: Valentina Gaio

Catherine Bither

University of Sussex

Consciously Gendered: Feminization, transgressive irony, and insatiability in Bernadette Mayer's Studying Hunger (Virtual)

Leia Ransley

University of St Andrews

From Inaccessibility to
Ambiguity: Convent-as-Genre
and Queer Potentiality in
Margaret Cavendish's
"The Convent of Pleasure"
(Virtual)

Khyla Haddock

University of Washington

The Liminal Body: Virtual Reality and the Splintered Subject (Virtual)

Parastoo Tahmasbi

University of Saskatchewan

Thriving outside of Power:
Situating John Gay's
The Beggar's Opera
in the liminal spaces
of 18th century
London
(Virtual)

PLENARY TALK

Dr. Veronika Kratz

Postdoctoral Researcher at Queen's University

"Life at the Edges: Liminal Ecosystems in Literature and Culture"

Veronika Kratz (she/her) is a SSHRC postdoctoral fellow in the Department of English at Queen's University. She is a settler scholar researching and teaching in the environmental humanities and US literary and cultural studies with a particular focus on science in literature and culture. Her dissertation examined desertification as a cultural discourse in the US from the 1930s Dust Bowl to the contemporary moment, and her current research investigates the cultural history of the ecosystem concept in relation to Cold War nuclear research.

Her work on narratives of environmental crisis in the United Nations has recently appeared in thecedited collection, Storied Deserts: Re-Imagining Global Arid Lands (Routledge, 2024).

Liminal Prospects

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Creative Directors

Suzie Deschambault Vera Hadzic Katelyn Luymes Lauren MacKenzie

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Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the QGCL committee, moderators, panellists, speakers, and attendees for making this conference possible. We would also like to thank Queen's Department of English Literature and Creative Writing for their support, with a special thanks to Prof. Sam McKegney, Meghan Brien, and Jesse Sibanda. Finally, this conference would not be possible without support from the Gerald Row Fellowship Fund.