



ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
JUNE 8-10

“Legacies of Complexity”



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I want to thank each of you for joining us this year. As a conference organizer, I may do a fair amount of work to make sure the conference “happens,” but the heart of the conference lies in the work that you share. I have read the proposals – I’ve watched from the sidelines as revised titles reach my inbox, or as a new abstract takes shape. This is the nature of writing and of scholarship – the steady movement forward, the second-guessing, the worries that someone else will get there “first.”

It’s well known that Wallace was uncomfortable with fame, and we joke that he would have avoided his own conference. But really, I think he would have admired the work that I see coming across my desk. I think he would have appreciated the struggle we each experiences as we try to “get it right” in our own writing. In many cases, I think he would have been honored to join us, to offer some thoughts on writing, to simply listen to scholars who have pieced together Wallace’s works in ways that he himself could not have anticipated. As I read the abstracts this year, and as I’ve struggled to reach page 258 from *Infinite Jest*, I’m now convinced that Wallace would have attended our conference. I think he would gone to the panels, if even just to listen. To learn. To better understand this world – this future – he was writing toward.

It’s been an honor and a pleasure to chair this year’s conference, and I owe a great deal to the support provided by our student volunteers, faculty advisors, and English Department staff.

Ryan

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Thursday Afternoon	12-1pm	Registration and Sandwiches Stevenson 133
Session A	1-1:45pm	
A1: Creative Writing, Fiction		
Andrea Berns	Cynical Man Explains to His Son the Ways of the World	
<p>Inspired by a short scene in Wallace’s Infinite Jest, this flash fiction piece is written in the form of a monologue between a crudely blunt father and his young son that takes place in a Dairy Queen. In a voice reminiscent of the Incandenzas, the cynical father gives his four-year-old son insight about college, marriage, and life as a middle-aged washout.</p>		
James McAdams	Dreamcatchers	
<p>In this story, "Dreamcatchers," a lonely, dying man’s final days are redeemed by the influence of a troubled young woman he meets at a strip club (Yes, I know this sounds cliched!). As a hears her story, he loses interest in romantic relations with her, instead sympathizing with her addicted plight and doing the best to save her. Even though he fails at this task, this action of "silent heroism" (The Pale King) transforms his final days.</p>		
A2: Derrida and DFW		
Vernon Cisney	The Poststructuralist Broom of Wallace’s System: Lenore, Derrida, and Deleuze	
<p>In this paper I offer a reading of The Broom of the System that demonstrates – through an exposition of Derrida’s notion of différance and his notion of self, and Deleuze’s understanding of intensity – that the poststructuralist thinking that Wallace sometimes dismisses is necessary for his project of moving beyond the worst tendencies of postmodernism.</p>		
Philipp Ohnesorge	“Time is out of joint“ – Infinite Jest and the ghosts of the postmodern	
<p>The paper evaluates the ghosts encountered in Infinite Jest as well as the narration’s haunting elements, found in the structure of temporality, memory and virtuality. The goal is to contextualize the findings with theories of the postmodern proposing a new reading of Wallace’s novel as a piece of “hauntologic” realism.</p>		

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Session B	2-2:45pm	
B1: Sex and Isolation: IJ, Pale King, Good Old Neon		
Danielle	Ely	XXX-IJ
For the 4th Annual David Foster Wallace Conference, I am presenting on the topic of sex in Infinite Jest. Building off of my theory that the novel has been drained of genuine femininity, unhealthy/dysfunctional sex then becomes another telltale dystopian element of the novel.		
Ryan	Lackey	“a way out of the airless conundrum”: David Foster Wallace’s (Not-quite) Postsecularism
Wallace scholarship often fails to treat seriously the fundamentally mystical spirituality of Wallace’s texts. To reappraise this spirituality, we can deploy Amy Hungerford’s and John McClure’s explication of the postsecular, which both illuminates and is problematized by Wallace’s texts.		
B2: Visual Representations of DFW		
Shelley	Grieve-Zerkel	“Thanks everybody and I hope you like it”: Visual and Structural Aspects of Mario’s ONANtiad Puppet Show
The ONANtiad puppet show is more than a substitute for a potential IJ footnote. The medium highlights the recursive structure, and political/radical puppetry underscores themes of colonization and environmental degradation. Construction of the puppet set functions as 3-D close reading, illustrating fan art’s potential for redress and showing how interacting with an “imaginary” work enriches textual understanding.		
Tom	Winchester	The Black-and-White Series
Theories of photography, including theories describing what constitutes a postmodern photograph, have been disrupted by digitization. The result, in part, has been a revival of analog processes. What’s postmodern about this revival is its emphasis on truth.		
B3: Political Narratives: IJ and Contemporary Discourse		
Alessandra	Tedesco	Power, knowledge and alienation: the political deconstruction in David Foster Wallace’s Infinite Jest
Under an interdisciplinary approach, this paper analyzes the dialectical nature of the analogies between novels and their real-world referents in David Foster Wallace’s Infinite Jest. The theoretical framework is based on three complementary perspectives: Bertrand Westphal’s theory of géocritique; Foucault’s perspectives on the relationship between power and knowledge, and Franck Fischbach’s work, who claims the actuality of the concept of human alienation.		
Grace	Chipperfield	But when I grew up, I put away adult things: protracted adolescence in Wallace’s works.
Across his works, with varied wording, Wallace describes America’s present culture and citizens as adolescent. Using identity theories of adolescence to flesh out what Wallace means by this, I argue that a protracted adolescence is indicative of Americans’ (and more broadly, America’s) unresolved identity crisis.		

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Session C	3-3:45pm	
C1: Diversity Roundtable		
Diego Báez (Moderator), Andrea Sheridan, Danielle Ely, Ryan Lackey		
<p>The climate in Wallace studies has always been somewhat contentious w/r/t its diversity, or more accurately, it's lack of diversity. Critics and scholars critique both Wallace's lack of diversity in his writing, and the lack of diversity in Wallace scholars, has created some backlash, most recently with Hungerford, Coyle and Crispin. This panel seeks to find out where we might find diversity in DFW's fiction and nonfiction, the DFW community, and how we might expand diversity in DFW scholarship with a goal of increased participation for DFW18.</p>		
C2: Autobiography and Criticism		
Nathan	Seppelt	About The Author: Wallace's Real-Time (Auto)Biography
<p>This project reads all "About the Author" statements accompanying Wallace's major publications as a single text: a real-time (semi-auto) biography.</p> <p>It examines how each statement contributes to a meaningful whole, create tensions internal to the text and how this mode of reading is complicated by posthumous "About the Author" statements.</p>		
Matthew	Luter	Me and Wallace's Shadow: Creating Space for the Personal in Critical Writing About Wallace
<p>This paper makes the case for the value of autobiographical criticism (in the tradition of Jane Tompkins's groundbreaking essay "Me and My Shadow") in Wallace studies as a way of challenging the assumed primacy of traditional academic argumentation, recently decried by Rita Felski as "narrow" and by Kevin Birmingham as "exploitative."</p>		
C3: The Tangle of IJ: Eschaton and the 80's		
Rich	Hanson	"Eschaton: We'll All Go Together When We Go."
<p>The fascinating game of Eschaton from "Infinite Jest" is explored as a wargame simulation with antecedents, as a vision of final judgment, and as human interactions fraught with distrust and hostility that can erupt into open warfare at any time.</p>		
Toon	Staes	Gödel, Escher, Wallace: Why Infinite Jest Is a Systems Novel
<p>This paper examines the influence of Douglas Hofstadter's Gödel, Escher, Bach (GEB) on Wallace's Infinite Jest. Tracing how the references to GEB impact Wallace's novel, and borrowing Tom LeClair's useful term for the massive books of the postmodernists, it revisits an old debate: Is Infinite Jest a systems novel?</p>		

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Thursday Evening	4-6pm	ESCHATON Basketball Courts
	6-7pm	Dinner Stevenson 401 - Buffet starts in 401A Welcoming Remarks Katherine Ellison Associate Chair, ISU Department of English
	7-8pm	DFW Society Board Meeting Stevenson 401
	8-10pm	Mingling Stevenson 401 will remain open late.
Friday Morning	8:30-9am	Coffee and Bagels Stevenson 133
Session D	9-9:45am	
D1: DFW and the Boundaries of Art: Oblivion, Good Old Neon, Infinite Jest		
S. Hamed	Tayebi	Oblivion Stories according to Baudrillard
This presentation will read Oblivion Stories from the perspective of Baudrillard. From his turn against Marxist theory to a critique of everyday life and finally prophecies on hyperreality, simulation and fractal stage of representation, Baudrillard will illuminate Oblivion Stories and point to moments in text which can enrich a critical readings of Wallace.		
Kyle	Henrichs	The Legacy of David Markson (Or Is It David Foster Wallace?)
I re-examine Wallace's "The Empty Plenum: David Markson's Wittgenstein's Mistress" in the context of Wallace's and Markson's legacies, reflecting on the idea of "legacy" itself. I demonstrate how Wallace became instrumental in constructing Markson's posthumous legacy and comment on the practice of legacy-making as the manipulation of cultural capital.		

D2: Region, Culture, and DFW's Nonfiction		
Alexander	Moran	The Cultural Capital of David Foster Wallace as a “Textual Subject” In Contemporary Fiction
This paper focuses on what David Hering terms Wallace the “textual subject,” and traces the Wallace-like figures that appear in the work of Mark Leyner, Jennifer Egan, Jeffrey Eugenides, Jonathan Franzen, Jonathan Lethem, and Richard Powers. Using the ideas of Pierre Bourdieu, I explore these iterations to outline the cultural capital of Wallace across contemporary literature.		
Laurie	McRae Andrew	Regionality: David Foster Wallace and American regional fiction in the twentieth century
This paper reconsiders Wallace’s writing of region through links between his early fiction and the writing of Eudora Welty and Flannery O’Connor. Exploring Wallace’s complex relation to the regional tradition in twentieth century American fiction, it considers him alongside the turn to a ‘new regionalism’ in the 1980s.		
D3: Creative Writing		
Grace	Chipperfield	The Nominee's Speech
As part of my PhD in Creative Writing, I will produce a novel-length work that speaks to my research into what it is to be an American citizen and how this relates to adolescence and adulthood in the works of David Foster Wallace. My creative reading is from this work-in-progress.		
Ashley	Kjos	Although of Course You End Up Becoming (Less) Yourself
This essay documents a day at the 2016 David Foster Wallace Conference, as well as its own writing process in the months that follow. It considers Wallace's work, Central Illinois, and self consciousness.		
D4: Brief Interviews with Hideous Men		
Samantha	Wallace	Interviews, Empathy, and Hideous Men: Discussing Feminism and David Foster Wallace
In this essay I examine the questions of open dialogue and radical empathy in Brief Interviews to begin a conversation about some of the more difficult aspects of Wallace’s work: the “sublime” woman, the notable absence or caricature of racial minorities, and the foundational question, why is it the hideous man we, the reader, must work through in order to engage in empathy?		
John	Mango	I'm With Someone I Know, But Don't Know How I Know Them
What if individuality, as you know it, was wrong? By exploring Wallace through a Hegelian lens, we'll attempt to see how empathy is always already at the core of our phenomenological relationship those around us to the point that it was weird any of us thought we were separated in the first place.		

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Session E	10-10:45am	
E1: Linguistics, Style, and Translation		
Bojana	Totovic	Infinite Translation
The discussion on attempting to translate sections of Infinite Jest into Serbian will focus not solely on the challenges and feasibility of such a project, but also on the cultural understanding and exchange that happens when confronted with interpreting the novel from a different culture in a globalized world.		
Antonio	Aguilar-Vazquez	"Upgrade yo vocab": A Re-evaluation of Signifying Rappers Based on Primary Sources and Richard Rorty's Concept of Public Vocabularies.
A re-evaluation of Signifying Rappers based on archival material from the book's editorial and publication process and Richard Rorty's concept of vocabularies; highlighting the complexity and importance of Wallace's rare analysis of racial and social relations in America as described in rap music.		
E2: Infinite Jest Portrayals of Addiction and Excess		
Ashlie	Kontos	"Our attachments are our temple": Addiction, Recovery, and the Metamodernist Movement
I examine how contemporary fiction departs from postmodern tendencies and draw parallels between certain postmodern characteristics and the disposition of most addicts. I explore White Teeth, Infinite Jest, and Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close: how these novels continue postmodernism's experimentation while abandoning its detachment to again explore authenticity and sincerity. These attributes ultimately enable addicts to cognitively and behaviorally reframe their engagement with their addiction, and I argue that these very qualities also push the literary community out of the postmodern refrain.		
Ross	Sellers	The American Dream in Infinite Jest and Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: Excessive, Detached, Extravagant and Full of Depravity Instead of Prosperity
While Hunter S. Thompson and David Foster Wallace have often been cited as dismissive toward one another, I argue that both writers were cognizant of the dark times on the horizon in their respective eras, and were simultaneously painfully aware of how the American Dream has been, and continues to be, a contributor to those dark times.		
E3: This is Water		
Matt	Bucher	The Genesis of Water: How George Steiner Shaped Wallace's Kenyon Commencement Address
George Steiner's 1996 Kenyon Commencement address deeply influenced Wallace's approach to crafting his advice to Kenyon's students, but mostly in a negative way.		

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Rob	Short	David Foster Wallace's Transformative Gifts and the Labor of Gratitude
<p>This paper examines the influence of Alcoholics Anonymous and Lewis Hyde's <i>The Gift</i> —specifically Hyde's theorization of what he calls “gift economies” and their currency, expressed as “labors of gratitude”—on David Foster Wallace's Kenyon Commencement Speech, the most distilled example of the writing ethic Wallace honed in <i>Infinite Jest</i>.</p>		
E4: Living Art		
Peter Gus	Sparacio	Waves Upon The Stars
<p>Depth can be strange and scary and totally liberating. Here are brief poems and a short story about characters experiencing something profound, an awareness of and a desire for compassionate living.</p>		
David	Hamme	Trying to Find Out What the Entertainment's Appeal Is Without Sacrificing Any of Your Own: A Field Report, P.S.2017
<p>Melodrama, recapitulation, and an argument for the relevance of the filmography of the auteur.</p> <p>"If there's one even remotely consistent theme it's maybe film and film-cartridges." "But who can know what's on them? Who can study the Entertainment while detached? " -- <i>Infinite Jest</i></p>		
Session F	11am-12pm	
F1: Infinite Jest and Perception		
Christopher	White	Embodied Reading, Intersubjectivity, and Infinite Jest
<p>Drawing on recent work in cognitive narrative theory and literary social cognition, my paper presents a conceptual framework for understanding readers' co-creative engagement with <i>Infinite Jest</i>'s character minds, and with the narrative's inferred author. I illustrate this model with a reading of the opening section of <i>Infinite Jest</i>.</p>		
Nicolas	Noble	A Policy of Blood and (Iron)y: Wallace as Ironist
<p>I interpret Wallace as an ironist whose project to recover a poetics of sincerity “completes” irony by rendering irony sincere and sincerity ironic. Wallace achieves this as a literary affect by setting up “triple frames” that layer moments with overlapping levels of irony and sincerity that consequently erase the gaps between.</p>		
F2: Philosophy Special Session: Interpersonal Ethics		
John	Mango	Moderator

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Marco	Meneghelli	Posture and imposture in a extramoral sense: between tennis, semiotics, philosophy and politics: David Foster Wallace VS Bret Easton Ellis (also considering Philip K. Dick)
<p>Bret Easton Ellis once said that David Foster Wallace was an impostor. Considering the Ellis' critique to Wallace, I will propose a survey on the concept (and the same word) of posture in Infinite Jest, with the certitude that it plays a central and fundamental role in DFW's literature, ethics and philosophy.</p>		
Paolo	Pitari	David Foster Wallace's Sociology and its Existential Consequences
<p>With this presentation I'll call into question Wallace's sociological analysis by comparing it to the works of Bauman and Giddens. By so doing, previously unnoticed nuances will surface that will, in turn, raise doubts as to whether Wallace's thought and existentialism can effectively provide answers to neoliberal ideology.</p>		
F3: Feminism Special Session		
Samantha	Wallace	Moderator
Aisling	Smith	"No More Smiley Masks": Wallace's Masked Woman
<p>Masks recur in both literal and figurative ways throughout Wallace's works, particularly in his representations of women. Via discussion of Infinite Jest's Joelle Van Dyne and The Pale King's Meredith Rand, I will show that masks are often intrinsically connected to Wallace's treatment of female sexuality.</p>		
Ashlie	Kontos	The De-democratization of Reading: Amy Hungerford's Objection to Reading DFW
<p>This essay will examine Amy Hungerford's recent publications ("On Not Reading" featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education in September 2016 and the extended argument in her latest book Making Literature Now) on why she believes the reading public should not read the works of Davis Foster Wallace. I will examine her argue on three counts: 1) her assumption that the author's (inter)actions in Real Life determine the kind of relationship (s)he has with the reader, 2) the writer/author-reader relationship portrayed as a sexual relationship—she depicts DFW's fiction as trying to fuck the reader while Jonathan Safran Foer, in comparison, tries to make love to the reader[1], 3) the shame of admitting one has not read a work, and 4) the time quandary: reading takes time; longer books take more time to read; should we only read shorter books so as to be able to read more? This essay will briefly consider other women's arguments on not reading DFW, and how the act of reading is still very much a political act and one that should remain open and free to all readers.</p>		
Friday Midday	12-1pm	Lunch Stevenson 401 - Buffet starts in 401A

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	1-2pm	Keynote: Jeffrey Severs University of British Columbia “We’ve been inside what we wanted all along”: Immanence and David Foster Wallace Stevenson 401
<p>Among contemporary fiction writers, few answer as readily as David Foster Wallace to the name of philosopher of immanence. In <i>This is Water</i>, Wallace essentially summarizes the problem of immanence – the problem of life in an immersive, invisible medium – with a joke: “There are these two young fish swimming along, and they happen to meet an older fish swimming the other way, who nods at them and says, ‘Morning, boys. How’s the water?’” One young fish, in the only element he has ever known, asks his companion, “What the hell is water?” Throughout the speech, Wallace tries to get Kenyon graduates to see that the “water” they swim through is comprised of a series of “default settings,” assumptions – most of them solipsistic – that are so naturalized as to go unnoticed, those “most obvious, ubiquitous, important realities” that prove “the hardest to see and talk about” because we live wholly inside them. In trying to illuminate such realities, Wallace’s fictions eschew the predictable dramatic arcs and signs of too-tidy enlightenment he associated with conventional realism. He forges in the stead of such effects an existentialist project that takes aim at immanence – at the ubiquitous and the enveloping – through plotless stasis, recursive self-examination, and overwhelmingly informative encyclopedism. The infinite may be one of his major subjects, but he works always with a wariness of the transcendence of lived reality and immanence it portends. Freedom and other states of liberation in Wallace depend on going (back) in, not out or away into a realm of detachment – no “pathetic” “flight-from,” in the words of Hal Incandenza, no getting away from it all. In all these ways Wallace seems to agree with a well-known maxim paraphrasing a line of Robert Frost’s poetry: the only way out is through.</p> <p>In this talk I explore Wallace’s immanence project through his dogged work on the language of away, out, in, and exit and his primary means for doing that work: the creation of strange, often rhizomatic forms of architecture, centered on images of paradoxical doors and other portals that I suggest are inspired by his deep reading of Kafka, the fiction writer Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari champion as the great portrayer of immanence. In its readings my talk focuses on images of the unboundable self in <i>Infinite Jest</i>, <i>Oblivion</i> (especially “The Suffering Channel”), and <i>The Pale King</i>, while also taking in elements of <i>The Broom of the System</i>, Wallace’s understanding of Wittgenstein, and a few other texts and examples.</p>		
Friday Afternoon		
Session G	2-3:30pm	
G1: Politics Special Session: Nationalism and Political Deconstruction		
Grace	Chipperfield	Chair
Clare	Hayes-Brady	On and on and on: flatness, affect and the politics of place in the work of David Foster Wallace

This paper argues that Wallace’s complex engagement with postmodernist cynicism is framed partly through establishing an urban/rural friction in his writing. By creating this antagonism, he positions the city as a malevolent, mutable postmodernist space and the country as a space of “authentic” art and self-discovery.

Thomas	Moore	“Rereading the Clichés of David Foster Wallace: Resisting Neoliberalism Through Valuing the Ordinary”
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This paper examines how Wallace’s “Good Old Neon” employs cliché as a literary device for revealing selfishness, lovelessness, and delusions of uniqueness as “norms” of hegemonic masculinity. Wallace’s renewed philosophical investigation of cliché concludes with a recommendation that faith in being-for-the-Other is the key to ethical responsibility.

Tanner	Lyon	InterLaced: Infinite Jest and Late-Stage Capitalism
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Profoundly resonant with late-stage capitalism in the United States, Infinite Jest is filled with ideological ploys of entertainment and media to effect mass social control of individuals. This essay analyzes Marxist theory and the sociopolitical context of Infinite Jest to demonstrate the divergence of economics and politics that Marx theorized would mark the end of capitalism.

Ryan	Edel	The Writer’s Ethic: Addressing Autography to the ‘Post-Factual’ Era
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This presentation reframes political discourses as autobiographical conflicts, per Berlant’s “intimate publics.” Through standpoint theory, we can see that technological comfort breeds epistemic apathy among many Americans. Perreault’s “autography” may provide creative writers a model to overcome social denigration of the academy.

G2: Empathy Special Session: Between You and Me: ‘Feeling Into’

Barbara Balfour (Chair), Corrie Baldauf, Dave Laird, and Lauren Nurse

The panelists explore empathetic connections between art and life, outsider and group, online and in-person interactions, footnotes and fungi – between you and me. Wallace said “True empathy’s impossible” yet described imaginatively identifying with a character as “nourishing and redemptive”. We consider how this might lead, in DFW’s words, to becoming “less alone inside”.

G3: Creative Writing: (Dis)Ordered Chaos: Presenting the (Un)Speakable Human Condition

Jane	Carman	Moderator
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Carman’s writing works to (re)define and explain the human condition through the manipulation of forms, ideas, understandings, and the (extra)ordinary details of everyday life.

Kathleen	Miller	
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Miller’s creative work is a nonlinear, fragmented text that seeks to dismantle traditional forms of narrative, disrupt generic boundaries, and dislocate perceptions and expectations.

Amy	Eggert	
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Eggert’s creative work attempts to resemble the chaotic, traumatized nature of the mind under duress in order to bring readers closer to so-called “unspeakable” experience.

G4: Metatextual Infinite Jest		
Daniel	Leonard	Worst Is the Armed Mother: Mariticide and Filial Aggression in 'The Dream Songs' and 'Infinite Jest'
Following up on last year's conference paper, I have continued to research how Hal's coping with grief for his father in Jest draws on Henry's in the Songs. I pursue evidence that Henry suspects his mother of killing his father and seek parallels with Hal and Avril.		
Maxwell	Suechting	But Am I Paranoid Enough? Obsession, Addiction, and Reading in Infinite Jest
This paper considers reading Infinite Jest through the lens of obsession. Tracing how Wallace depicts obsession in his characters and encourages it in his reader, I configure obsession as an affect of reading that quilts together a diegetic world, an individual experience, and the text's wider reception.		
Ross	Barnes	It Was a Great Marvel He Was in the Father Without Knowing Him: Orality, Literacy, and Visuality in Infinite Jest
This paper examines the various signifying systems of representation (specifically notions of orality, literacy, and visuality) as they pertain to questions of identity and authorship in Infinite Jest. Particular theoretical attention is given to diegetic, extra-diegetic, and heuristic reading devices that work in concert to constitute the narrative.		
Snacks	3:30-4pm	STV 133
Session H	4-5:15pm	
H1: Disability Studies Special Session: Mental Illness and "The Depressed Person"		
Rhett	Farinholt	Chair
Rob	Mayo	'It's like I can't get enough outside it to call it anything': diagnosing depression in Infinite Jest.
This presentation functions as an introduction to the long-running theme of malaises and mood disorders in Wallace's fiction. Through the character of Kate Gompert in Infinite Jest this paper explores the foundations and boundaries of the mental disorder which 'hang[s] fog-like' over the novel and, indeed, Wallace's entire oeuvre.		
Andrew	Sutcliffe	The Narcissist's Wet Dream: 'Good Old Neon', David Foster Wallace and the Psychiatric Paradox
In 'Good Old Neon', DFW presents the "narcissist's wet dream": an objective view of the self, free from selfhood. What does such a view say about mental illness and could it ever be possible?		

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Ross	Owens	Suicide as a Sort of Gift
<p>Georges Bataille's concept of 'la part maudite' [The Accursed Share] offers a way of conceptualising certain orthodoxies about mental health and suicide. We might then understand Wallace's writing on such as the inevitable explosion, the catastrophic destruction, of a mind that produces an invulnerable surplus; an excess of thought and – being thought – impervious to destruction.</p>		
<p>H2: Infinite Jest: Shifting Culture, Things, and Technology</p>		
Natalie	Helberg	“Society’s Destruction through Technology’s Seduction: Understanding James Incandenza’s filmography in Infinite Jest”
<p>Using interviews with David Foster Wallace and specific critical research my discussion presents James Incandenza’s filmography as a declaration to technology’s seductive tendencies. This eight and half page filmography provides significant details into the destruction of society as portrayed in Infinite Jest.</p>		
Carly	Yingst	Sifting through Lists: Reading and Rereading the “Litter-type Objects” of Infinite Jest
<p>This paper brings together neomaterialist and psychoanalytic approaches to examine different models Infinite Jest provides for managing its things and objects. It focuses particularly on Wallace’s lists, as a way to understand how the novel, across numerous (re)readings, shifts attention between subject and object, self and world, inside and outside.</p>		
Bill	Lattanzi	Delerious with Noxema: Pop Culture and Signal and Noise in Infinite Jest
<p>A deep dive into the movie, television, film, art, music and other pop culture references in Infinite Jest. This 20 minute talk will be of the slide-show-and-video-clip-with-commentary style, a not-strictly-academic-but-easily-accessible-approach similar to the presenter’s talk on Wallace’s Boston at the first DFW Conference in 2015.</p>		
<p>H3: Pedagogy: To Be Present and Human: The Pedagogy and Practice of Reading, Writing, and Thinking Outside the Margins</p>		
<p>This interactive presentation considers how the comfort of mainstream (publishing and erudition) alienates/isolates readers/writers from innovative texts, how readers can work through the frustration/(mis)understanding of such texts, and how to turn discomfort into interest and engagement to create/engage in texts reflecting the present and what it means to be human.</p>		
Jane	Carman	Moderator
<p>Carman argues innovative collage works like Lance Olsen’s Calendar of Regrets are a more accurate reflection of reality (experienced through multiple windows/tabs) than mainstream literature.</p>		
Kathleen	Miller	
<p>Miller’s critical work argues passive readers who seek prepackaged meaning can be transformed into engaged, active architexts who construct meaning vis-à-vis experimental texts.</p>		

DFW17 Panels and Schedule

Amy	Eggert	
Eggert will share several short innovative texts used in her introductory creative writing classrooms, along with student samples that demonstrate experimental attempts at “stress writing.”		
H4: Religion Special Session		
Michael	McGowan	Chair
Tristan	Cooley	The Sacred Midwest in "Westward the Course of Empire Takes its Way."
Wallace imbues the Illinois landscape with a polarizing power over his story's characters in "Westward the Course of Empire Takes its Way," where an affinity with Midwestern surroundings emerges as a prerequisite to the oft cited "sincerity" of Wallace's post-postmodern agenda.		
Michelle	Martin	Addiction and Recovery in David Foster Wallace's Infinite Jest
An examination of addiction and Alcoholics Anonymous in Infinite Jest focused on how Wallace uses the religiously rooted 12-step program as a model for recovery from addiction.		
Martin	Brick	Bloomsday in Beantown: The Influence of Ulysses on Infinite Jest
This paper examines the influence of Joyce's Ulysses, specifically looking at correspondence between Hal Incandenza/Stephen Dedalus and Don Gately/Leopold Bloom. Each work offers similar messages regarding spirituality, critiquing the overly intellectual approach of the younger characters in favor of a more intuitive faith of the older men.		
Friday Evening	5:30-6:30pm	The Great Concavity Podcast Matt Bucher and Dave Laird Stevenson 401
		The Great Concavity will be broadcasting its first live episode on Facebook from 5:30-6:30 PM (CDT) on Friday the 9th, so join us there if you can't make the conference in person. This will be Episode 29, and will also go out as usual as well in case you miss the live stream.
	6:30-8pm	Dinner, Refreshments, and Banter Stevenson 401 - Buffet starts in 401A
	8-10pm	Mingling Stevenson 401 will remain open late.
Saturday Morning		
	8:30-9am	Coffee and Bagels

DFW17 Panels and Schedule

Session I	9-9:45am	
I1: Aesthetics of Failure and "Iceberg" Plotting		
Julianne	McCobin	"Weirdly Compelling": Desire, Pain, and the Aesthetics of Failure in Infinite Jest
<p>In dialogue with Clare Hayes-Brady's characterization of Wallace's poetics as ones of "generative failure," this paper focuses on the aesthetic importance of vulnerability, hiddenness, and suggestion in Wallace's novel Infinite Jest. I focus on Mario's search for "valid art" and his obsession with M.P.'s radio program to reconsider the novel's affective and stylistic entanglements.</p>		
Michael	O'Connell	"Melting the Iceberg": David Foster Wallace's Rewriting of Ernest Hemingway
<p>This talk addresses both the specific ways that "Good People" is indebted to Hemingway's "Hills like White Elephants," and how Wallace's differing approach to similar subject matter encapsulates his attempt to revise the legacy of modernism, which he claimed left us with a "distrust of strong belief, [and] open conviction."</p>		
I2: Inspiration for Pale King		
Philip	Sayers	The Pale King and the "Cowboys of Information"
<p>Drawing on archival research at the Harry Ransom Center, this paper examines the composition, editing process, and reception of The Pale King. All three of these stages have been characterized by the same kind of labour that the novel is about: corralling large quantities of information into a meaningful narrative.</p>		
Yonina	Hoffman	The Making of Sincerity: Wallace and Updike
<p>This paper explores the substantial influence of John Updike on Wallace, focusing on Wallace's engagement with Updike's prose as an aesthetic ideal for narrative voice in The Pale King. Updike helps Wallace to develop the more beautiful and "sincere" single-entendre principles for which he strove.</p>		
I3: Creative Writing		
Jeffrey	Calzaloia	Anon.
<p>A short story about the hacktivist group Anonymous that is slowly becoming the first chapter of a novel.</p>		
Brian	May	The Red Kite
<p>"The Red Kite" is a prose-poem of empty wonder, wonder reaped in-- from-- solitude, and wonder that cannot last. Speaking pretentiously, Beckett meets Gass meets Lamorrisse in Chicagoland.</p>		

DFW17 Panels and Schedule

Session J	10-10:45am	
J1: DFW: Conveying the Mysterious, the Spiritual, the Postmodern		
Danny	Sheaf	David Foster Wallace, Jan Patočka and the Isolated Subject
Following Wallace's discussion of advertising, I will suggest that the logic of cultivating a 'personal identity' has come to shape our social relations. I will suggest that the notion of the self as an isolated ego fails to grasp the necessarily situational ground that makes us who we are.		
Peter	Spaulding	The Abolition of Maps: A Comparative Read of David Foster Wallace's Infinite Jest and C.S. Lewis's The Abolition of Man
This paper compares similarities between the philosophical undercurrents of David Foster Wallace's Infinite Jest and C.S. Lewis's The Abolition of Man. Both works offer, as a solution, the subjection of the individual will to a greater body for their concerns about a growing cultural tendency toward solipsism.		
J2: Teaching Wallace's Prose		
Jacob	Singer	Building Sentences with David Foster Wallace
This presentation will demonstrate how stylistics can be used to explore David Foster Wallace's style in both his fiction and nonfiction. By examining how Wallace uses different aspects of cumulative syntax, one will gain insight to how he used grammar in order achieve rhetorical ends.		
Suzanne	Webb	Teaching with David Foster Wallace: Essays, Empathy & Empirical Research
Even though Wallace is gone, there is still a great deal he can teach us about writing. Students can learn how to scrutinize, digest, consider, write, rewrite, and expose. They learn to ask questions. Observe. Take notes. Ponder. They learn to write about things they care about; they observe; they experience.		
J3: Creative Writing		
Jeff	Jarot	A Silent Dirge in Progress
Jarot's piece is an experiment in flash fiction that also serves as a deliberate attempt to blend the lines between poetry and fiction. It was originally composed sans capitalization and punctuation, both of which have been strategically added for both coherence and clarity.		
Ryan	Edel	An Echo of Sorrow
In this creative commentary on "progress" in a galaxy of magical force, a sad disciple of ancient knights tries to save her dying master from the inevitability of economic collapse. What have they lost from the old ways? How much did their lives of study matter, really?		

DFW17 Panels and Schedule

Saturday Wrap-up	11-12noon	Town Hall, Giveaways, and Wrap-Up Stevenson 133
	12noon-end	Bag Lunch and Wrap-up Stevenson 133
	1-3pm	End of the Tour - Free Showing! Normal Theater
	3pm-Evening	We know of good places you can go to hang out! Bloomington-Normal, Various Locations

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Barbara Balfour

Professor, York University, Toronto, Canada

Barbara Balfour, a Toronto-based artist, is Professor and Graduate Program Director, MFA/PhD Program in Visual Arts, York University. Her research involves print and text-based art practices. Other activities include artist residencies, curatorial projects, and critical writing. Her book *The Inkiest Black* is a textual/visual response to *Infinite Jest*.

Antonio Aguilar-Vazquez

Ph.D. Student, University of Glasgow

Antonio Aguilar-Vazquez has a BA (Honors) from the National Autonomous University of Mexico and an MSc in Literature and Modernity from the University of Edinburgh. He is a present Phd candidate at the University of Glasgow and a member of a the David Foster Wallace Research Group.

Corrie Baldauf

Assistant Professor of Art, Eastern Michigan University

Corrie Baldauf knows that humor is the best form of intelligence. She believes that admitting what you don't know is the best way to learn more. Baldauf is an Assistant Professor of Art at Eastern Michigan University and Secretary of the International David Foster Wallace Society.

Ross Barnes

Independent Scholar, N/A

Ross Barnes lives in Galesburg, Illinois.

Andrea Berns

Master's Student, Illinois State University

Andrea Berns is a recent graduate of Illinois State University, having completed her Master's degree in English Studies: Creative Writing - Fiction in May 2017. After working as a graduate assistant in the Publications Unit and assistant teaching an introductory creative writing course, she plans to pursue a career in the publishing industry.

Martin Brick

Associate Professor, Ohio Dominican University

Martin Brick is Associate Professor of English at Ohio Dominican University. His primary research agenda explores the intersection of religion and modernist and postmodern literature. He has

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published on James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, D.H. Lawrence, David Foster Wallace, and Mark Z. Danielewski in journals such as James Joyce Quarterly and Christianity and Literature.

Matt Bucher

Independent Scholar

Matt Bucher is the President of the International David Foster Wallace Society. Since 2002 he has administered the wallace-l listserv and is the co-host of The Great Concavity podcast. His work has appeared in Electric Literature, The Dublin Review of Books, The Chicago Review of Books, Publishers Weekly, and elsewhere. He lives in Austin, Texas.

Jeffrey Calzaloia

Creative Writer

Jeffrey Calzaloia is an author whose ambitious work may not achieve commercial success but whose investment in producing high-quality literary fiction remains strong. Inspired by novelists such as John Crowley, Toni Morrison, Gene Wolfe, Cormac McCarthy, Junot Díaz, Samuel R. Delany, Marcel Proust, and (of course) David Foster Wallace, as well as poets such as Gerard Manley Hopkins, Wallace Stevens, Leonie Adams, and John Brooks Wheelwright, Mr. Calzaloia lives in Massachusetts.

Jane L. Carman

Creative Writer, Festival of Language / Lit Fest Press

Jane L. Carman, author of Tangled in Motion (JEF Books 2015), is the founder of the DFW Conference, the reading series Festival of Language and a reading eXperiment, and Lit Fest Press. Carman holds a PhD in English Studies from ISU. She is currently writing manuscripts on Alzheimer's and suicide.

Grace Chipperfield

Ph.D. Student, Flinders University of South Australia

Grace Chipperfield is a PhD candidate in Creative Writing at Flinders University in South Australia. She is researching what it is to be an American citizen and how this relates to adolescence and adulthood in the works of David Foster Wallace. She also tutors in English Literature at Flinders University.

Peter Christensen

Independent Scholar, NA

Peter Christensen is the manager of technology commercialization at DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. While not an academic, he is an avid student and reader of David Foster

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Wallace's work. He has a B.S. from the University of Minnesota and a J.D. from the University of New Hampshire School of Law.

Vernon Cisney

Assistant Professor, Gettysburg College

Vernon W. Cisney is a visiting assistant professor of philosophy at Gettysburg College. He is the author of *Derrida's Voice and Phenomenon: An Edinburgh Philosophical Guide* (Edinburgh, 2014); as well as *Deleuze and Derrida: Difference and the Power of the Negative* (Edinburgh, 2018). He is also the co-editor of *Biopower: Foucault and Beyond* (University of Chicago Press, 2015); *The Way of Nature and the Way of Grace: Philosophical Footholds on Terrence Malick's Tree of Life* (Northwestern, 2016); and *Between Foucault and Derrida* (Edinburgh, 2016).

Tristan Cooley

Master's Student, Brooklyn College

Tristan Cooley is currently earning his MA in English at Brooklyn College. He also holds a BA in English from Brooklyn College and a BFA in Jazz Performance from the Newschool. He plays flute, saxophone, first base, and, on occasion, right field.

Ryan Edel

Instructor, Illinois State University

Ryan Edel is the current chair of the DFW Conference. He recently earned his Ph.D. in Creative Writing and Rhetoric at Illinois State University. His research interests center upon autobiography, both as a creative tool of self-realization and a rhetorical tool of cultural metanarrative. Naturally, he would never admit that he also writes science fiction writer, or that he has not yet finished reading *Infinite Jest*. These are not the narratives you're looking for.

Amy L. Eggert

Instructor, Bradley University

Amy L. Eggert is the author of *Scattershot* (Lit Fest Press 2015), a hybrid collection that redefines and re-envision the trauma narrative. Eggert has a PhD in English Studies from ISU and teaches for Bradley University. She's working on a book that explores the mindset, stigma, and aftermath of suicide.

Danielle Ely

Professor, Hudson Valley Community College

Danielle S. Ely completed her Master's Thesis called "Into the Womb of Solipsism: The Entertainment as 'Speculum'" in 2011. She has presented instantiations of her thesis at conferences like Sex...or

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Something Like It in Madrid and the David Foster Wallace Conference. Her complete thesis is available on Proquest and her work can also be found in LitFestPress' Normal 2014 and Normal 2015. She is an adjunct English instructor at Columbia-Greene Community College and Hudson Valley Community College.

Aaron Geiger

Ph.D. Student, Northern Illinois University

As a creative writer and digital rhetorician, Aaron Geiger draws upon his experiences as a former U.S. Navy search and rescue operative, wilderness first responder, technologist and book lover. He is a Ph.D. student at Northern Illinois University, where he studies the rhetoric and language of algorithms, the New Aesthetic, bots, and digital pedagogy.

Shelley Grieve-Zerkel

Independent Scholar, Ohio State University

Shelley Grieve-Zerkel is a nondegree student in English at Ohio State University, where she also received an MA in Communication. A central Illinois native, she loves Wallace for his humor and his sense of place. Her love of adaptation began as a Kabuki theatre student under Shozo Sato at the University of Illinois. Shelley is also an Info Designer for IBM.

David Hamme

Independent Artist,

David Hamme is a film and theater artist, having studied Method acting at the Lee Strasberg Theater Institute, the dramatic arts (traditional/experimental) and film & television production at New York University. His career has largely been defined by post-production work and his position as a motion picture colorist in New York City.

Rich Hanson

Independent Scholar, University of Minnesota/Duluth graduate English/philosophy

Rich Hanson is recently retired and enjoying the freedom to read and write, unfettered by wage slavery. He and his wife Nancy reside in Monmouth, Illinois.

Clare Hayes-Brady

Assistant Professor, University College Dublin

Clare Hayes-Brady is a lecturer in American Literature at University College Dublin. She is the author of *The Unspeakable Failures of David Foster Wallace*, and has published and presented widely on aspects of contemporary literature and culture.

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Natalie Helberg

Ph.D. Student, Governors State University

Natalie Helberg is a graduate of the Master's in English program at Governors State University, near Chicago, Illinois. Her thesis focused on themes presented in David Foster Wallace's *Infinite Jest*. She was a Writing Fellow for undergraduate students, is a published author and is pursuing doctoral studies in contemporary literature.

Kyle Henrichs

Ph.D. Student, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

Kyle Henrichs is a fifth-year doctoral student in English at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. His research interests include contemporary American fiction, narratology, and ecocriticism. He presented at the 2013 Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Conference and at last year's Third Annual David Foster Wallace Conference.

Yonina Hoffman

Ph.D. Student, The Ohio State University

Yonina Hoffman is a PhD candidate at The Ohio State University whose dissertation examines the career arc of David Foster Wallace: its dominant narrative voices, their ethics and aesthetics, and their corresponding influences. Yonina's interests include post-45 American literature, narrative theory, stylistics, literary form, and phenomenology.

Jeff Jarot

Creative Writer, Plainfield South High School

Jeff Jarot is a writer who teaches high school English. He holds a BA in English from Illinois Wesleyan University, a BA in English Education and MA in English from Illinois State University, and an MA in English from Northern Illinois University. His short story "Home Movies" appeared in *Festival Writer*. In addition, Jarot's previous Wallace scholarship was featured in *Normal 2014: Selected Works from The First Annual DFW Conference*, as well as *Normal 2015: Selected Works from The Second Annual DFW Conference*. His novella *Zuzu's Petals* was published in February 2016 by Lit Fest Press. Jarot lives in Plainfield, Illinois with his wife and three children.

Ashley Kjos

Creative Writer

Ashley Kjos graduated from Drake University with a degree in History. His work has appeared on *Consequence of Sound*, in the magazines *gb&d* and *Profile* and he has read at Live Lit series around Chicago where he lives with his wife.

DFW17 Presenter Bios

Ashlie Kontos

Master's Student, University of Texas at Tyler

Kontos studies English at the University of Texas at Tyler. She published “Nomina Nuda Tenemus: Jonathan Safran Foer Finding Meaning Within Empty Names, or (re)Construction of Deconstruction” in *Media, Technology, and Imagination* and won the Darrell Borque Award. She co-edited *Normal 2014* and *Normal 2015*, which include her essays.

Ashlie Kontos

Master's Student, University of Texas at Tyler

Kontos studies English at the University of Texas at Tyler. She published “Nomina Nuda Tenemus: Jonathan Safran Foer Finding Meaning Within Empty Names, or (re)Construction of Deconstruction” in *Media, Technology, and Imagination* and won the Darrell Borque Award. She co-edited *Normal 2014* and *Normal 2015*, which include her essays.

Ryan Lackey

Master's Student, Oregon State University

Ryan Lackey is a graduate student at Oregon State University seeking his M.A. in American Literature and Culture. He received his B.A. in English from George Fox University, and has presented at regional and national conferences on the works of David Foster Wallace, Chad Harbach, and Charles Baxter.

Dave Laird

Co-Host, Great Concavity Podcast

Dave Laird is a high school humanities teacher, co-host of The Great Concavity podcast, and an avid Netrunner enthusiast from Victoria, BC. He completed his MA in English last summer, with a thesis on Infinite Jest's engagement with Christian soteriology. He was also a weekly contributing guide for Infinite Winter.

Bill Lattanzi

Independent Scholar, Self

Bill Lattanzi is an independent video editor, writer, and producer from Boston. His work on Wallace includes the occasional walking tour of Wallace's Boston, an essay in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, talks at the DFW Conferences 1 and 2 in Bloomington, and at the Sorbonne in Paris.

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Daniel Leonard

Independent Scholar, Independent Scholar

Daniel Leonard is a poet and independent scholar from the Philadelphia area. He holds graduate degrees in poetry and philosophy from Boston University and the University of Leuven, respectively. Daniel has presented at every DFW conference since its inception and supposes he'll do it again.

Ben Leubner

Assistant Professor, Montana State University

Ben Leubner lives and teaches in Bozeman, Montana.

Matthew Luter

K-12 Teacher, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Jackson, MS

Matthew Luter is on the English faculty at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Jackson, Mississippi. He is the author of *Understanding Jonathan Lethem* (University of South Carolina Press, 2015). His articles, on authors including Don DeLillo, Ellen Douglas, Willie Morris, and Bret Easton Ellis, have appeared in journals including *Critique*, *The Southern Literary Journal*, *Genre*, and *Orbit: Writing Around Pynchon*.

Tanner Lyon

Undergraduate Student, University of Nevada, Reno

Tanner Lyon is an honors student from the University of Nevada, Reno, specializing in both Continental philosophy and literature. At the Western Regional Honors Conference in 2016, he presented a paper that analyzed contemporary capitalism through the theoretical lenses of Karl Marx, Herbert Marcuse, Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, and Slavoj Žižek.

Michelle Martin

Undergraduate Student, University of Victoria

Born in British Columbia and raised in South Florida, Michelle Martin returned to BC to complete her honours degree in English Literature at the University of Victoria. She is an aspiring DFW studies and Contemporary American Literature scholar who is also interested in film and religious studies.

Brian May

Professor, Northern Illinois University

The author teaches English at a university near Chicago.

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Rob Mayo

Ph.D. Student, University of Bristol

Rob Mayo is a PhD researcher at the University of Bristol, due to undertake the viva in September 2017. His thesis explores the presentation of depression and other mood disorders and malaises in David Foster Wallace's fiction. Other research interests include speculative fiction, video game narrative and contemporary cinema.

James McAdams

Ph.D. Student, Lehigh

James McAdams has published fiction in decomp, Superstition Review, Amazon/Day One, Literary Orphans, and B.O.A.A.T. Journal, among others. Currently, he is a Ph.D. candidate in English at Lehigh University, where he also teaches and edits the university's literary journal, Amaranth. His work can be viewed at jamesmcadams.net.

Julianne McCobin

Ph.D. Student, University of Virginia

Julianne McCobin is a PhD student studying modern and contemporary American literature at the University of Virginia. Her current research focuses on literary form in relation to aesthetics, affect, and disability theory.

Laurie McRae Andrew

Ph.D. Student, Royal Holloway, University of London

Laurie McRae Andrew is a PhD student at Royal Holloway, University of London. His thesis explores David Foster Wallace's fiction through geocriticism, literary geography and spatial theory. He lives in London.

Marco Meneghelli

Independent Scholar, Università degli studi di Milano

He was born in Fiorenzuola (Italy) the eight of January 1971. He is graduated in Philosophy with a thesis on the concept of infinite and continuity in the thought of the great American philosopher, Charles Sanders Peirce. His field of interest is infinity, continuity, recursion and so on. He loves David Foster Wallace ad infinitum and more.

DFW17 Presenter Bios

Kathleen E. Miller

Instructor, Illinois State University

Kathleen E. Miller has a PhD from Illinois State University and teaches writing and literature courses at ISU. Miller has previously published with Ave Maria Press and Jaded Ibis Press, among others. She has an innovative, genre-bending manuscript under review, as well as a traditional fantasy novel she co-authored.

Thomas Moore

Master's Student, Marquette University

Thomas D. Moore earned an English MA from Marquette in May and will begin Ph.D. studies at University of Illinois at Chicago in the fall. His work on experimental fiction often examines issues of ethical obligations and irreducible alterity. He recently began an extended project on the Infinite Jest drafts.

Alexander Moran

Ph.D. Student, University of Birmingham

Alex Moran has recently completed his PhD with the University of Birmingham, with a focus on cultural reproduction in the work of Wallace, Franzen, Chabon, Egan, and Whitehead. He has published on Wallace in "Orbit: A Journal of American Literature," and has presented on contemporary literature at numerous conferences.

Nicolas Noble

Ph.D. Student, University of Toronto

Nicolas Noble is a PhD student in the Department of English at the University of Toronto. He has won numerous awards and scholarships for his research focusing on the intersections between philosophy and literature. He is currently working on his dissertation which explores Nietzschean aesthetics in contemporary American literature.

Lauren Nurse

Visual Artist,

Lauren Nurse is a visual artist working in printmaking, sculpture, horticulture and installation. She holds an MFA from York University and has exhibited and lectured in Canada, the United States and

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internationally. She has taught printmaking, design, drawing, and contemporary art practice at OCAD University, University of Toronto in Mississauga and York University.

Michael O'Connell

Assistant Professor, Siena Heights University

Michael O'Connell is Assistant Professor of Humanities at Siena Heights University in Adrian, MI. His research focuses on contemporary American literature and religion and literature; publications appear in *Christianity and Literature*, *Religion and the Arts*, and *Renascence*. He is working on a study of violence in contemporary American Catholic fiction.

Philipp Ohnesorge

Master's Student, University of Münster, Germany

Philipp Ohnesorge, aged 29, is a student and graduate assistant at the department of German literature at University of Münster, Germany. After his Bachelor's degree in German literature and philosophy in Münster and Bonn, he is currently writing his thesis in the master's program "cultural poetics" and preparing his dissertation.

Ross Owens

Ph.D. Student, University of Sussex

Ross Owens has been an analyst, a bookseller, a barista and a stripper. Now he's a Phd candidate at the University of Sussex studying ludic literature and the medical humanities. He likes writing contrived [comic?] rhymes, but prefers to defer to your better judgement on that matter.

Paolo Pitari

Ph.D. Student, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Paolo Pitari is a PhD student at Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy). He's worked on DFW since he was an Undergrad. His research now focuses on the concept of free will and its existential consequences by employing an interdisciplinary approach that mixes literary criticism, philosophy, and sociology.

Philip Sayers

Ph.D. Student, University of Toronto

Philip Sayers is a PhD candidate in English at the University of Toronto. He holds a BA in English from Cambridge and an MA in Comparative Literature from University College London, and specializes in twentieth century and contemporary Anglophone prose, psychoanalysis, and continental philosophy.

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Ross Sellers

Independent Scholar, Montana State University December Graduate

Ross Sellers is a December graduate from Montana State University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts: major in Writing, and minor in Literature. He first encountered Infinite Jest in Ben Leubner's class for major authors, and is now entrenched in David Foster Wallace's writing because it's nice to read serious art.

Nathan Seppelt

Independent Scholar, The International DFW Society

Nathan Seppelt is an independent scholar & artist based in Adelaide, Australia. Nathan is the Publications Chair for the International David Foster Wallace Society and an Associate Editor of their peer-reviewed journal, both of which he urges everyone to check out (and get involved!) at dfwsociety.org.

Danny Sheaf

Ph.D. Student, Murdoch University

Danny Sheaf holds an Honours Degree in English & Creative Arts and Philosophy awarded by Murdoch University (Perth, Australia). He is currently a PhD candidate at Murdoch University. Danny's research concerns a philosophical engagement with the fiction of David Foster Wallace via Martin Heidegger and Jan Patočka.

Rob Short

Ph.D. Student, The University of Florida

Rob Short is a PhD candidate at the University of Florida. His work on Wallace has appeared in *Normal 2015: Selected Works from The Second Annual David Foster Wallace Conference* and on the website for James Ponsoldt's film *The End of the Tour*. He is also the webulizer for dfwsociety.org.

Jacob Singer

Independent Scholar, Writer and Adjunct Professor

Jacob Singer is a professor of writing whose critical and creative works can be found at *The Quarterly Conversation*, *Colorado Review*, and *Anobium*. He authored "The Hysterical Realism Reading List" and founded the blog *Hysterical Realism*.

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Aisling Smith

Ph.D. Student, Monash University

Aisling Smith is a PhD candidate in Literary Studies at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. Her dissertation explores the works of David Foster Wallace through affect theory. She is Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Colloquy: text, theory, critique* and is also an editor of the 2017 Monash Verge Anthology.

Peter Gus Sparacio

Creative Writer, Bizurich Media

Peter Gus Sparacio graduated from Illinois State University ('06) with degrees in Political Science and Government and Psychology, and from Lake Forest Graduate School of Management with an MBA ('15). Since 2006, he has worked at medical and manufacturing companies, specializing in quality, regulatory and engineering. He currently resides in Chicago, and is heavily influenced by the works of C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien and David Foster Wallace.

Peter Spaulding

Master's Student, Marquette University

Peter Spaulding grew up in the Philippines, where his parents did missionary work. His undergraduate studies were in English Literature at John Brown University, and he is now a first year Master's student at Marquette University. His literary interests are the English Renaissance and Postmodern American fiction.

David Spencer

Independent Scholar, Ball State University

David Spencer graduated with a Master's degree in Literature from Ball State University in 2014, presenting his Master's thesis paper at the 2014 DFW Conference ("Post-Postmodern Didacticism"). He continues independent scholarship and teaches high school English in Columbus, Indiana, including instilling the curriculum with Wallace's works whenever possible.

Toon Staes

Independent Scholar, The Ohio State University

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Toon Staes is a postdoctoral researcher with Project Narrative at The Ohio State University, sponsored by the Belgian American Education Foundation. He received his PhD at the University of Antwerp. He has published various essays on American fiction and narrative theory, and is currently preparing a book on David Foster Wallace and Richard Powers.

Maxwell Suechting

Ph.D. Student, Stanford University

Max Suechting is a doctoral candidate in Stanford University's Program in Modern Thought & Literature, where he studies twentieth-century popular culture. His dissertation traces alternate formulations of human and posthuman subjectivity forged at the intersection of music and technology in Black Atlantic culture.

Andrew Sutcliffe

Ph.D. Student, King's College, University of London

Andrew Sutcliffe is a Doctoral Researcher in Comparative Literature at King's College, University of London. His focus is on the Medical Humanities, particularly the intersection between mental illness, psychiatry and literature. He is also confident swimmer.

S. Hamed Tayebi

Ph.D. Student, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz & Paris-Diderot

Hamed Tayebi wrote his master's thesis on Oblivion Stories by making a Baudrillardian critique. Currently he is a PhD candidate at universities of Graz and Paris-Diderot completing a dissertation on the oeuvre of Wallace from the perspective of Roland Barthes, Herbert Marcuse, Jean Baudrillard and Paul Virilio.

Alessandra Tedesco

Independent Scholar, University of Bologna

Alessandra Tedesco holds a PhD in Comparative Literature from University of Bologna, in Italy. Her research interests include Twentieth-Century and contemporary Anglo-American literature, postmodern literature, literary theory, geocriticism, philosophy, Vladimir Nabokov and David Foster Wallace. She has an interdisciplinary approach to the study of literature, seen as an interpretational key of actual social, economic and cultural aspects of the real world.

Bojana Totovic

Independent Scholar, Independent Scholar

DFW17 Presenter Bios

Bojana Totovic is an interpreter, translator and ESL teacher from Belgrade, Serbia. She holds a BA in English from University of Belgrade, and an MFA in Creative Writing from Boston University.

Samantha Wallace

Ph.D. Student, University of Virginia

Samantha Wallace studies English literature at the University of Virginia. Her current research concerns questions of experimental form, focusing on American 20th and 21st-century novels, as well as intersections of art and violence. Before beginning her PhD, she was involved with art education at the Getty Museum, Los Angeles, and open-access publishing in San Francisco.

Suzanne Webb

Creative Writer, Southwestern College

Suzanne Webb tells stories. Her stories mix, mesh, and merge alphabetic texts and images with her "plain-talkin' self." Her works have been featured in *Computers & Composition*, *Calliope*, and *Harlot of the Arts*. She seeks to reach academic and nonacademic audiences alike as she discusses the professional by using the personal.

Christopher White

Associate Professor, Governors State University

Christopher White is an Associate Professor of English at Governors State University, located south of Chicago. He has published articles on William Faulkner and Cormac McCarthy in the *Journal of Modern Literature*, *Southwestern American Literature*, *The Cormac McCarthy Journal*, and *Studies in the Novel*.

Tom Winchester

Professor, Ringling College of Art and Design Department of Photography and Imaging

Tom Winchester has presented papers titled, "Himself's Figurants" and "Infinite Jest as an Art Object" at previous DFW Conventions. He currently teaches photography at Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida.

Carly Yingst

Ph.D. Student, Harvard University

DFW17 Presenter Bios

Carly Yingst is a first-year PhD student in English at Harvard University, studying 20th century American literature and the novel. She received her BA in English from Indiana University, where she wrote her thesis on motion and (dis)orientation in David Foster Wallace and Thomas Pynchon.