23rd Annual British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference

February 14-15 2014
Hilton Savannah DeSoto Hotel
Simon Gikandi is Robert Schirmer Professor of English at Princeton University and editor of *PMLA*. Born in Kenya, Prof. Gikandi graduated from the University of Nairobi before becoming a British Council Scholar at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, and completing his Ph.D. in English from Northwestern University. Professor Gikandi is the author of seven award-winning books, including *Reading the African Novel*, *Writing in Limbo: Modernism and Caribbean Literature*, *Maps of Englishness: Writing Identity in the Culture of Colonialism*, Ngugi wa Thiong’o (awarded Choice Outstanding Academic Book of 2004), *The Columbia Guide to East African Literatures in English Since World War II*, and *Slavery and the Culture of Taste* (thrice-awarded in 2012 as the Winner of the Susanne M. Glasscock Humanities Book Prize for Interdisciplinary Scholarship; co-winner of the Melville Herskovits Award for the of the most important scholarly works in African studies; and co-winner of the James Russell Lowell Prize for an outstanding scholarly work).

His texts have covered a wide variety of colonial, transnational, and postcolonial issues. Their focuses have ranged from the ways that the enslavement of Africans and the capital built on their exploitation allowed a transformation of European bourgeois mentalities regarding concepts of freedom and the self to how individual identity politics in colonial narratives have challenged and changed the nature of British identity since the 19th century. In doing so, Professor Gikandi has developed ground-breaking and innovative readings of authors such as Trollope, Carlyle, Kingsley, Seacole, Conrad, Greene, Soyinka, Rushdie, and Riley (just to name a few). Rather than simply focusing on a narrow view of these authors and issues, Prof. Gikandi consistently explores the connections of world-wide colonial landscapes.

In addition to his own monographs, Professor Gikandi has also edited numerous volumes, including the Norton Critical Edition of Wole Soyinka’s *Death and the King’s Horsemanto*, The Encyclopedia of African Literature, The Cambridge History of African and Caribbean Literature, as well as the special issue “Modernism and Transnationalism” for *Modernism / Modernity*. He is currently at work on multiple projects, namely *This Thing Called English: The Colonized and their Books*, the *Novel from Below*, and *The Atlantic Crypt: The African in the Archive of Slavery*.

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**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Dr. Simon Gikandi

Robert Schirmer Professor of English

Princeton University

*Note:* The inclement weather caused by Winter Storm Pax disrupted the travel plans of several attendees. Their absence is noted throughout the program.
# PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

## FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14

### REGISTRATION – Friday 8:00 AM – Pulaski Room

### Session A – Friday 8:30 AM
Panels 1-4 – Lafayette, Monterey, Chippewah, and Telfair Rooms – 2nd Floor

### Session B – Friday 10:15 AM
Panels 5-8 – Lafayette, Monterey, Chippewah, and Telfair Rooms – 2nd Floor

### LUNCH – Friday 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM Harborview Room

### Session C – Friday 1:30 PM
Panels 9-12 – Lafayette, Monterey, Chippewah, and Telfair Rooms – 2nd Floor

### Session D – Friday 3:15 PM
Panels 13-15 – Lafayette, Monterey, and Chippewah Rooms – 2nd Floor

### RECEPTION – Friday 4:30 PM – Ossabaw Room

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS – Friday 5:45 PM – Ossabaw Room
Simon Gikandi – “Postcoloniality and Comparison”

## SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15

### REGISTRATION – Saturday 8:00 AM – Pulaski Room

### Session E – Saturday 8:30 AM
Panels 16-18 – Lafayette, Monterey, and Chippewah Rooms – 2nd Floor

### Session F – Saturday 10:15 AM
Panels 19-21 – Lafayette, Monterey, and Chippewah Rooms – 2nd Floor

### LUNCH – Saturday 11:45 AM - 1:15 PM – Harborview Room

### Session G – Saturday 1:30 PM
Panels 22-24 – Lafayette, Monterey, and Chippewah Rooms – 2nd Floor

### Session H – Saturday 3:15 PM
Panels 25-27 – Lafayette, Monterey, and Chippewah Rooms – 2nd Floor

### RECEPTION – Saturday 4:30 PM – Ossabaw Room

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**British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference Committee**

Marc Cyr, Chair  
*Georgia Southern University*

Gautam Kundu  
*Georgia Southern University*

Dustin Anderson  
*Georgia Southern University*

Joe Pellegrino  
*Georgia Southern University*

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**BCPCS Conference Liaisons**

Onyekachukwu Agim, CEIT  
Jennifer Downs, CLASS

Thomas J. McIntyre, CLASS  
Tiffany Manning, GSO

Sheila Nielsen, CLASS  
Maria Politis, JPHCOPH

Allison Rogers, CLASS  
Samuel Saussy, COBA

Lindsay Shalom, CLASS  
Erick Sorrells, JPHCOPH
## Session A – 8:30 AM

### Panel 1: By the Levees of Empire: Unaccredited, Subaltern, and Brown-Bodied Remainders

**Chair:** Keith Cartwright  
**University of North Florida**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lafayette Room</th>
<th>Synthesizing and Swinging “Philosophy”: Unaccredited Wisdom-Love</th>
<th>Of Levees and Neoliberal Violence: “Subaltern” Bodies in Beasts of the Southern Wild</th>
<th>Coolies, Pakis, and Arabs: Remainders of the Third World</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|                | Leila Youssef  
|                | University of North Florida | Stephanie Rountree  
|                | Georgia State University | Sana Riaz  
|                | University of North Florida |

### Panel 2: Private Agency, Public Imposition: Breaking Rules

**Chair:** Mary Reid  
**University of California, San Diego**

| Monterey Room | Why This Life: Story and Novel in Zadie Smith’s NW  
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|               | Molly Slavin  
|               | Emory University |

|                  | Effects of Colonialism on the Common People in Hensher’s The Mulberry Empire and Ghosh’s The Glass Palace  
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                  | Rashmila Maiti  
|                  | University of Arkansas, Fayetteville |

### Panel 3: Re-fashioning the Self for Public Consumption

**Chair:** Simon Lewis  
**College of Charleston**

| Chippewah Room | “Repressed is the Body”: Embodied Subjectivities, Resistance and Subversion in Twentieth-Century Postcolonial Female Fictions  
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                | Srerupa Sengupta  
|                | University of Southern Mississippi |

|                  | Grey Owl’s Apache-Ojibwe War Dance: Performing Native Identities for the Empire  
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                  | Maria Doyle  
|                  | University of West Georgia |

### Panel 4: The Place of the Body in Transnational Interactions

**Chair:** Rod McRae  
**University of West Georgia**

| Telfair Room | Genealogy, Tattooing, the Treaty of Waitangi, and Migration in Keri Hulme’s The Bone People  
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|              | Matt Oches  
|              | University of Michigan |

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<tr>
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</table>
|                  | Space, Place, and Race in Jamaica Kincaid’s A Small Place  
|                  | Bridget Stephens  
|                  | Georgia Southern University |

## Session B – 10:15 AM

### Panel 5: Nigeria: Personal, Social, and National Identities

**Chair:** Christine Sizemore  
**Spelman College**

| Lafayette Room | Ravaging the Resource: Global Greed and Nigeria’s Oil Wars in Helon Habila’s Oil on Water  
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                | Steven Almquist  
|                | Spring Hill College |

|                  | Controlling the Flows: The Bush in Three of Tutuola’s Novels  
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                  | John Rooks  
|                  | Morris College |

|                  | Space, Place, and Race in Jamaica Kincaid’s A Small Place  
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                  | Bernard Ayo Oniwe  
|                  | University of South Carolina |

### Panel 6: Moving Beyond Moral Brutalities

**Chair:** Laura Wright  
**Western Carolina University**

| Monterey Room | The Gospel of Miguel: J. M. Coetzee’s The Childhood of Jesus  
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|               | David Hoegberg  
|               | Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis |

|                  | “It Cannot Be Normal”: Queer Experimentation in Ama Ata Aidoo’s Our Sister Killjoy  
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                  | Mary Reid  
|                  | University of California, Dan Diego |

cancelled due to weather
### Panel 7: Heritage, Independence, and Poetics: Postcolonial Ireland
**Chair:** Marla Bruner  
**Georgia Southern University**

- **Emerging Identities: Cultural Independence in the Northern Irish Novel**  
  **Peggy Lindsey**  
  **Georgia Southern University**

- **The Usefulness of Cultural Heritage in Empowering Conflicted Communities: An Early Legacy Assessment**  
  **E. Moore Quinn**  
  **College of Charleston**

### Panel 8: Rewriting History, Revising Memory
**Chair:** Isaac Rooks  
**University of Southern California**

- **Demons and Stereotypes: Christianity and Postcolonialism**  
  **Philip Mingay**  
  **The King’s University College**

- **Race, Property Rights and Loss of Empire: History and Cinema**  
  **Andrew Buck**  
  **Australian Catholic University**

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### LUNCH – 11:45 AM – Harborview Room

### Session C – 1:30 PM

### Panel 9: Performing and Presenting the Other
**Chair:** Olivia Edenfield  
**Georgia Southern University**

- **“Talks English Very Well”: Eighteenth-Century In(ter)ventions of Race in Isaac Bickerstaffe’s The Padlock**  
  **Janeen Price**  
  **Florida State University**

- **Discourse of the British Empire: Naipaul’s Beyond Belief: Islamic Excursions Among the Converted People and Among the Believers: An Islamic Journey**  
  **Marwa Saad**  
  **Thebes Academy**

- **The Hybridity of Dialect and Didactics in Les Murray’s Subhuman Redneck Poems**  
  **Rod McRae**  
  **University of West Georgia**

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### Panel 10: Homes: Disciplinary and Domestic
**Chair:** John Rooks  
**Morris College**

- **Behind the Beautiful and the Damned Forevers of India Becoming and Calling**  
  **Hans-Georg Erney**  
  **Armstrong Atlantic State University**

- **cancelled due to weather**

- **cancelled due to weather**

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### Panel 11: Eco-allegory, Ecoethics, and Political Violence: Postcolonial South Asian Fiction
**Chair:** Mitali Wong  
**Claflin University**

- **“The Step to Another Reality”: Geological Scale-Bending and Violence in Michael Ondaatje’s Anil’s Ghost**  
  **Wes DeShano**  
  **University of Kentucky**

- **Paradise and Ecoethics in The God of Small Things**  
  **Shanna Early**  
  **Emory University**

- **cancelled due to weather**

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### Panel 12: The Margins of the New World
**Chair:** Molly Slavin  
**Emory University**

- **Zadie Smith’s NW: “Minor Literature” from a Major Author?**  
  **Christine Sizemore**  
  **Spelman College**

- **Rice, Race and the Erasure of Africa in the Carolina Lowcountry**  
  **Simon Lewis**  
  **College of Charleston**

- **Exploiting The Help: The United States South and Postcolonial Nostalgias in Contemporary Fiction**  
  **Wayne Partridge**  
  **University of Oxford**
Session D – 3:15 PM

Panel 13: Bhabha in the African Diaspora: Interrogating Masculine Subjectivities
Lafayette Room

Chair: Allison Harris
University of Miami

“A House Full of Ugly Memories”: Trauma, Belonging, and the Image of Home in J. M. Coetzee’s Disgrace
Heather Williams
University of Tennessee

Christianity and Resistance: Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s The River Between
April Conley Kilinski
Johnson University

White Desires: Colonial Impotence in Metropolitan Caribbean Novels
Allison Harris
University of Miami

Panel 14: Postcolonial Post-Secondary Pedagogy
Monterey Room

Chair: Pamela Rooks
Francis Marion University

The Marginalization of African Cultures in Post-Secondary Humanities Textbooks
Kimberly Harper
Albany State University

Postcolonial Pedagogy and Student Voices
Cheryl Duffus
Gardner-Webb University

Postcolonial Condition(ing): Understanding the Gaps Between White and Minority Students in the USA
Erold Bailey
Westfield State University

Panel 15: Social Studies: Human, Humanist, and Post-Human
Chippewah Room

Chair: Hans-Georg Erney
Armstrong Atlantic State University

cancelled due to weather

Atul Gawande as Medical Humanist
Laverne Nishihara
Indiana University East

Eugene Marais and the Postcolonial Baboon
Mary Pollock
Stetson University

RECEPTION – 4:45 PM – Pulaski Room

KEYNOTE ADDRESS – 5:45 PM – Pulaski Room
Simon Gikandi – “Postcoloniality and Comparison”

The Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies publishes interdisciplinary and cross-cultural articles, interviews, and creative writings on the literatures, the histories, the politics, and the arts whose focus, locales, or subjects involve Britain and other European countries and their former colonies, the now decolonized, independent nations in the Americas, Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean, and also Australia, Canada, Ireland, and New Zealand. Now in its twenty-first year, the Journal looks for manuscripts which address the fluidity of postcolonial, transnational, diaspora, or cosmopolitan studies. We seek to publish work in both thematic (migration, diaspora studies, etc.) and geographic (Eurabia, South Asia, etc.) areas.

Manuscripts for publication must be written in English and submitted in duplicate. Length should preferably be between 4,000 and 5,000 words (i.e., 14-18 typed, double-spaced pages), and must follow the MLA Style Manual format. Manuscripts should be sent to:
Editor, Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies
For electronic submissions:
http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/litphi/jcps/contact.html

The journal is published bi-annually in fall and late spring.

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Individuals: $25.00 US
Students: $10.00 US

Subscriptions checks should be made payable to Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies and sent to the Editor.

All other inquiries: gkundu@georgiasouthern.edu

Forthcoming Issue

New Directions in Anglo-Indian Writing: Subjects and Subjectivities (Fall 2014)
Guest Editor: Vandana Gavaskar
(Elizabeth City State University)
## Session E – 8:30 AM

**Panel 16: Transatlantic and Diasporic Others**  
**Lafayette Room**  
Chair: Lindsay Shalom  
Georgia Southern University  
From Tragedy to Policy: Representations of Muslims and Islam in U.S. Mainstream Media  
Andrew Thompson  
Marquette University  
Progressive Writers at the BBC: Mulk Raj Anand and Attia Hosain  
Julie Cyzewski  
Ohio State University  
“A Black Pagan in Orange Clothes”: Race, Religion, and Gender in Swami Vivekananda’s American Sojourn  
Anupama Arora  
University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth

**Panel 17: The Death Rattle of the Empire**  
**Monterey Room**  
Chair: Erick Sorrells  
Georgia Southern University  
The Empire in the Manor House  
Jennifer Lauren  
Western Governor’s University  
The Tea Party in a Shambles: The Decline of the British Empire, According to J.G. Farrell  
Rebecca Ziegler  
Georgia Southern University  
The Joy of Tweed: Affective Nationalism and Redemptive Feminism in Mrs. Dalloway  
Baron Haber  
University of California, Santa Barbara

**Panel 18: Postcolonial Science Fiction**  
**Chippewah Room**  
Chair: Thomas McIntyre  
Georgia Southern University  
The Clearing in The Land: Patrick Ness’s Chaos Walking Trilogy as Settler Narrative  
Pamela Rooks  
Francis Marion University  
“Even Aliens are Racist:” Post-Imperial Nostalgia and Melancholia in Attack the Block  
Katlyn Williams  
University of Iowa  
The Apocalyptic Panacea: World War Z and the Imagination of Unifying Global Disaster  
Isaac Rooks  
University of Southern California

## Session F – 10:15 AM

**Panel 19: Transpacific Discourses**  
**Lafayette Room**  
Chair: Erin Suzuki  
Emory University  
“Because Flesh Holds Song”: Representations of the Body in Pacific Island Literature  
Marlo Starr  
Emory University  
Apocalypse Now?: Keri Hulme’s Stonefish and Ruth Ozeki’s A Tale for the Time Being  
Lucy Webster  
Emory University  
Spatial Subjectivity in Karen Tei Yamashita’s Through the Arc of the Rainforest  
Ashley McNeil  
Georgia State University

**Panel 20: Creating National Communities and Rethinking the Nation**  
**Monterey Room**  
Chair: Maria Politis  
Georgia Southern University  
Oral Tradition and National Communities in Kanthapura  
Shruti Amar  
King’s College London  
Imperial Vanities: Mira Nair, William Makepeace Thackeray, and American-Indian Cultural Commodity in Vanity Fair  
Jerod Ra’Del Hollyfield  
Western Kentucky University

**Panel 21: After the Sun Set: The Aftermath of British Imperialism**  
**Chippewah Room**  
cancelled due to weather

## LUNCH – 11:45 AM - 1:15 PM – Harborview Room
### Session G – 1:30 PM

**Panel 22: Connecting Colonies and the Commonwealth**

**Lafayette Room**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>University</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alienation on Imperial Axes in Walcott’s <em>A Branch of the Blue Nile</em></td>
<td>Sam Saussy</td>
<td>Georgia Southern University</td>
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<td>Angela Eward-Mangione</td>
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<td>University of South Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>“State-Sponsored Transnationalism”: African Writers, the Commonwealth, and the CIA</em></td>
<td>Nathan Suhr-Sytsma</td>
<td>Emory University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disappearance in Raphaël Confiant’s <em>Les Saint-Aubert</em></td>
<td>Jeremy Patterson</td>
<td>University of South Carolina</td>
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**Panel 23: Ideology in Afghanistan**

**Monterey Room**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genealogy of the Terrorist in <em>The Wasted Vigil</em></td>
<td>Jennifer Downs</td>
<td>Georgia Southern University</td>
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<td>Todd Kuchta</td>
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<td>Western Michigan University</td>
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**Panel 24: Teaching Texts from South Asia through an Interdisciplinary Lens**

**Chippewah Room**

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<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Postcoloniality through the Lens of Contemporary Pakistani Literature</td>
<td>Gaynell Gavin</td>
<td>Claflin University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Abroad: A Learning Experience for the Instructor</td>
<td>Mitali Wong</td>
<td>Claflin University</td>
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<td>Texts, Contexts, and Beyond: Studying in India</td>
<td>Shakera West</td>
<td>Claflin University</td>
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### Session H – 3:15 PM

**Panel 25: Novel Approaches Down Under**

**Lafayette Room**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mormon Polygamy and Trial Marriage in Catherine Helen Spence’s <em>Settler Colonial Imaginary</em></td>
<td>Sheila Nielsen</td>
<td>Georgia Southern University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terra Joseph</td>
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<td>Rider University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage and Agency in <em>Doctor Wooreddy’s Prescription for Enduring the Ending of the World</em></td>
<td>Aaron Roberts</td>
<td>Georgia Southern University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching <em>The Secret River</em></td>
<td>Rebecca Weaver-Hightower</td>
<td>University of North Dakota</td>
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**Panel 26: Bodies For Sale: Women, Children, and Violence in Postcolonial Narratives**

**Monterey Room**

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<th>University</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harvesting and Laboring: Bodies for Sale in <em>Harvest</em></td>
<td>Allison Rogers</td>
<td>Georgia Southern University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jenni Halpin</td>
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<td>Savannah State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Innocence and Dissidents: Globalization, Regulation, and Transgression in Selvadurai’s <em>Funny Boy and Roy’s The God of Small Things</em></td>
<td>Prathim Maya Dora-Laskey</td>
<td>Alma College, University of Oxford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staging Power and Resistance: Imprisoned Women and State Violence in Ajoka Theatre’s <em>The Acquittal / Barri and Neelay Haath / Blue Hands</em></td>
<td>Sobia Mubarak</td>
<td>University of Arkansas, Fayetteville</td>
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**Panel 27: South African Structures: Many Nations, Many Voices**

**Chippewah Room**

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<tr>
<td>The Township Gaze: The Performance of Poverty Tourism, Animals, and Women in the New South Africa</td>
<td>Onyekachukwu Agim</td>
<td>Georgia Southern University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Wright</td>
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<td>Western Carolina University</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Yeatsian Intertexts of Coetzee’s <em>Disgrace</em></td>
<td>Richard Rankin Russell</td>
<td>Baylor University</td>
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<td>cancelled due to weather</td>
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### CLOSING RECEPTION – 4:30 – 6:00 PM – Pulaski Room
The Conference Committee appreciates the good will, flexibility, and understanding of all who enjoyed their time in Savannah, as well as those whose plans were disrupted by Winter Storm Pax.