

Re: Call for Papers

Collectives, Conglomerates, Constellations
English Graduate Symposium

UC Irvine English Department

May 24th, 2024

Keynote Speaker: Dan Sinykin, author of *Big Fiction* (Columbia University Press, 2023) and *American Literature and the Long Downturn* (Oxford University Press, 2020)

Keynote Title: Dialectical Fractals: Big Fiction in the Conglomerate Era

Description:

Books — Texts.

Publishers — Conglomerates.

Authors — Scriptors.

Readers — Critics.

Multiple forces comprise the fiction of the solitary author. In the spirit of Dan Sinykin’s challenge of working towards “a better collective understanding of literary production,” we might focus our investigation in the wake of Roland Barthes’ suggestion that “the text is a tissue of quotations drawn from the innumerable centres of culture.” One need only turn to the acknowledgment section in a scholarly work to account for the many contributors behind a single, finished product. Such turning challenges the myth of the isolated genius. The work scholars produce is rarely completed in isolation as collaboration becomes a vital component of creating something new. Our work as graduate students also becomes an addition to the ongoing intellectual conversations of our literary communities.

We seek to advance our knowledge of the multiplicities at work behind the appearance of a singular narrative. To that end, “Collectives, Conglomerates, Constellations” calls for papers that examine collectivity, sociality, and relation. We are interested in thinking together through works in progress outside the binary and the monolithic. What are the stakes of multiplicities in literary studies? How can thinking collectively, as a methodology, help us make and unmake meaning in texts? We encourage works that tackle collaborative partnerships, collective action, networks of circulation, conglomerates and complexes, linguistic multiplicities, and methods of communal study. We also welcome graduates from our English department to submit collaborative projects that contend with the thematic resonances as we celebrate and foster the collective, intellectual community of the UCI English Department.

We invite papers including, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Individual and/or collective authorship
- Literary communities
- Intersectionality in literature
- Cultural politics of race, class, gender, sexuality, and disability
- Networks of circulation
- Literature and social movements
- The publishing industry
- The literary marketplace
- Collage and assemblage
- Interdisciplinary approaches to literature
- Coteries, menageries
- Monographs and/or anthologies
- The “auto” in Autotheory/Autofiction
- Multilingualism and/or Translingualism
- Translation
- Collective memory/traumas
- Methods of collective study
- Transnational solidarities
- Literary/rhetorical ecologies
- Relation
- Hybridity
- Community and Community Building
- Shared Affect
- Adaptation
- Intertextuality

Please submit abstract proposals and short bios to this [form](#) by April 28th, 2024 11:59 pm.