

Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference at UBC, Vancouver  
**March 11 & 12, 2016**

## **THE FANTASY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO FANTASTIC LITERATURE**

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Farah Mendlesohn, Anglia Ruskin University, UK

Location: **Coach House**, Green College, UBC

### **Friday, March 11**

9:30 - 10 Breakfast

10 - 10:15 Welcome Address

**Dr. Geoffrey Winthrop-Young, Dr. Donald Fisher, Stephanie Dreier**

10:15 - 11:45 Panel I. Visions of Justice: Gender and Race Issues

Moderator: *Patricia Milewski*, M.A. student, UBC

**Natalie Boldt**, M.A. student, Trinity Western University

“Balancing Binaries: Gender Flexibility in Ursula Le Guin’s *Earthsea* Novels”

**Brent Holmes**, M.A. student, UBC

“The Bears and the Maidens Fair: The Shield-Maidens of Middle-Earth and Westeros”

**Marit Hanson**, Ph.D. student, University of Minnesota

“Race, Alterity, and Ambivalence in Junot Díaz’ *Monstro*”

11:45 - 12 Coffee Break

12 - 1:30 Panel II. Visions of Justice: Utopian Societies

**Rowan Melling**, M.A. student, UBC

“Utopianism as Practice”

**Megan Suttie**, M.A. student, McMaster University

“The Magic of Agency: Teaching Social Justice to Young Adults through Fantasy Fiction”

**Dr. Mark A. Fabrizi**, Assistant Professor, Eastern Connecticut State University

“Machiavelli is Alive and Well: The Politics of Oppression and Self-Interest in J. K. Rowling’s Harry Potter Series”

1:30 - 3 Lunch Break

3 - 4:30 KEYNOTE LECTURE

Moderator: *Stephanie Dreier*, Ph.D. candidate, UBC

**Professor Farah Mendlesohn**, Head of Department, Anglia Ruskin University

“The Rhetorics of Fantasy and the Rhetorics of Social Justice”

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**Saturday, March 12**

10 - 11:30 Panel III. Injustice in Times of Crisis

Moderator: *Rita Laszlo*, M.A. student, UBC

**Hilary Ball**, M.A. student, UBC

“Generosity and Gift Economy in Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*”

**Laura Isakov**, M.A. student, UBC

“Kafka’s *The Judgment*: Bullying, Suicide, and Social Justice”

**Carly Moniz**, M.A. student, Simmons College

“When Justice Means ‘Just Us’: Teaching Young Readers with Flawed Conceptions of Social Justice in *The Giver*”

11:30 - 12:45 Lunch Break

12:45 - 2:30 Panel IV. Transformation & Apocalypse: The Impact of Fantasy

**Misty Jackman**, M.A. student, Universität Mannheim and University of Waterloo

“Climate Fiction, the End of the World and Justice”

**Emily Arvay**, Ph.D. candidate, University of Victoria

“The Resurgence of Judeo-Christian Apocalypticism in Contemporary American Fiction”

**Stephanie Dreier**, Ph.D. candidate, UBC

“Magical Objects: The Transformative Power of Fantasy”

**Dr. Safaa Nasser**, Lecturer, Ain Shams University

“Shape-shifting as a Quest for Liberation, Empowerment and Justice: Metamorphosis and Therianthropy in Rawi Hage's Novels”

2:30 - 2:45 Closing Remarks

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