



Transitions & Transactions VII

Literature and Health: Mind, Body, & Planet
April 5-6, 2024

 **BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Transitions and Transactions VII Conference:
Spring 2024 Keynote Speakers at Richard Harris Terrace, Main Campus,
Presented by the BMCC English Department**

Dr. Danielle Ofri: “Storytelling & Healing: The Passion and the Peril” on Friday, April 5th, 3 – 4pm, in collaboration with the Working Writers Reading Series.



Danielle Ofri is one of the foremost voices in the medical world today, speaking passionately about the doctor-patient relationship and bringing humanity back to health care. She is a practicing physician at Bellevue Hospital and is a clinical professor of medicine at NYU. She is a founder and editor-in-chief of the award-winning *Bellevue Literary Review*. Her writing appears in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, *Slate Magazine*, *The Lancet*, *NEJM*, as well as in Best American Essays and Best American Science Writing. She has performed stories for the *Moth* and her TED talks include *Deconstructing Perfection* and *Fear: A Necessary Emotion*. A recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, the

National Humanism in Medicine Medal from the Gold Foundation, and an honorary doctorate of letters, Ofri is the author of six books about life in medicine. Her newest book is *“When We Do Harm: A Doctor Confronts Medical Error.”*



Dr. Salma Monani: “Mind, Body, & Planet: Teaching and Learning with Indigenous Environmental Justice” on Saturday, April 6th, 9:30 – 10:30am, sponsored by NYCEA & PCEA.



Salma Monani is Professor at Gettysburg College’s Environmental Studies Department. She is co-editor, with Steve Rust and Sean Cubitt, of *Ecocinema Theory and Practice* 1 and 2 (Routledge 2013 and 2022), and *Ecomedia: Key Concepts* (Routledge/Earthscan 2015), and lead editor (with Joni Adamson) on *Ecocriticism and Indigenous Studies* (Routledge/Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Literature, 2016). She has also extensively published on explorations of film and environmental justice, film festival studies, and Indigenous eco-activism, and her monograph: *Indigenous Ecocinema: Decolonizing Media Landscapes* is forthcoming (2024, University of West Virginia Press).



Conference Acknowledgments

The planning journey for this conference, with all its twists and turns of creativity, adaptability, and perseverance, was made possible by the seasoned perspectives and invaluable work of the T&TVII Committee: Margaret Barrow, Kathryn Bockino, Keridiana Chez, Nancy Derbyshire, James Hoff, and Stephanie Oppenheim. Here's to your dedication, insights, and contributions!

Gratitude to our incredible work-study student, Tyra Neal, whose diligence and hard work played a pivotal role in bringing this conference to fruition.

A special round of applause goes to Claire Pamplin, our intrepid English Department Chair, and beacon of enthusiasm.

Grateful acknowledgements to President Anthony Munroe for visionary leadership, and Provost Erwin Wong, Dr. Gail Fernandez, and Dr. Marva Craig for steadfast support.

Thank you to our colleagues, Syreeta McFadden, Chair of the Writing and Literature Committee, Jason Schneiderman, and Cheryl Fish for your inspiration and collaboration.

Many thanks to Geneen McCauley and Robert Gizis, an indomitable duo, whose expertise and dedicated efforts brought our web page and online registration to life.

To our esteemed colleagues in the English Department, fellow BMCC faculty members, valued students, and dedicated staff who have supported and continue to support us in this venture, your contributions are deeply appreciated.

In an ever-evolving landscape in our post-pandemic world, a return to an in-person conference is cause for celebration.

With appreciation,

Nita Noveno
T&TVII Conference Chair

T&T VII Program

Friday, April 5 (3pm - 7pm)

3 - 3:10pm **Welcoming Remarks** (Richard Harris Terrace, 2nd Floor, Main Building, 199 Chambers St.)
Nita Noveno, T&TVII Conference Chair, English Department, BMCC, and Syreeta McFadden, Chair of the Writing and Literature Committee and Program Coordinator, English Department, BMCC

Greetings: Gail Fernandez, Acting Associate Dean of Faculty, BMCC

3:10 - 4:00 **Keynote Speaker & Featured Guest Writer for the Working Writers Reading Series:** Dr. Danielle Ofri, Department of Medicine, New York University
Title: "Storytelling & Healing: The Passion and the Peril"
Description: Caring for patients isn't easy. In addition to being swamped by medical intricacies, health professionals and family caregivers often find that they are submerged in the patients' stories. This can be exhilarating or painful or both. But like patients, caregivers *need* stories. Why, after all, do so many of medical journals publish stories in their otherwise statistically significant pages? To be skilled caregivers, we must be able to interpret our patients' metaphors. If we insist on thinking concretely, we'll miss out on the many layers of meaning (and maybe miss the diagnosis too.)

4 - 4:15 **Question & Answer**

5 - 7pm
(reading at 5:30) **Conference Reception + Reading at Poets House** (10 River Terrace, NYC. 5-10-minute walk from Main campus.)
Join us for refreshments and camaraderie as BMCC faculty writers and poets - Eugenia Crawley, Cheryl Fish, Jason Schneiderman, and Elizabeth Weaver - showcase their talents at the newly renovated Poets House near the Hudson River.

Saturday, April 6 (9am – 5:30pm)

- 9 – 9:30am **Breakfast** (Richard Harris Terrace, 2nd Floor, Main Building, 199 Chambers St.)
- 9:20 **Introduction of Keynote Speaker:** Cheryl Fish, English Department, BMCC
- 9:30 **Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Salma Monani, Chair of Environmental Studies, Gettysburg College
Title: “Mind, Body, & Planet: Teaching and Learning with Indigenous Environmental Justice”
Description: In this talk, Dr. Monani discusses case studies from an introductory survey Environmental Humanities and an upper-level Environmental Humanities class to share ways in which she brings Indigenous Environmental Justice into her classroom. As a scholar who studies Indigenous ecocinema, this talk will focus on films, arguing that when contextualized with supplementary texts these films are powerful pedagogical tools to help students engage with Indigenous voices and visions, and to understand the historical contexts that frame Indigenous Environmental Justice as a fight for mind, body, and planet.
- 10:15 – 10:30 **Question & Answer**
- 10:45 - 11:45 **Panel Session One (Concurrent Panels):**
- 1A. **Difficult Dialogues: Three Students Share their Perspectives on Literature and Trauma in the Classroom** (Room N-489)
Chair: Domenick Acocella, English Department, BMCC
- Speakers:** Mira Zaman, English Department, BMCC
- BMCC Students: Jasmine Maldonado, Charles Jamison Therese, and Esha Kim Brazzier
- 1B. **Nature, Agency, and the World Around Us** (Room N-488)
Chair: Andrew Levy, English Department, BMCC
- Speakers:** Holly Messitt, English Department, BMCC, “The Agency of Dirt: Ecofeminist Text in ENG 121”

Suzanne Dottino, English Department, BMCC, "Navigating Wellbeing in Troubled Times through Literature"

Maria Allen, English Department, Western Texas College, "For the Acknowledgement of Nonhuman Agency in First World War Fiction"

1C. Social and Emotional Well-Being in the Classroom (Room N-471)

Chair: Jungah Kim, English Department, BMCC

Speakers: Cara Rodriguez, English Department, Casper College, "The Socially Healing Benefits of Using Vulnerability and Active Listening in the Classroom"

Trisha Brady, English Department, BMCC, "Incorporating Elements of Social and Emotional Learning in Composition Pedagogy Can Promote Community and Equity"

Christine Marks, Co-Program Director of the Liberal Arts: Health Humanities option, English Department, LaGuardia Community College, "Developing Critical Pedagogies of Healing through Literature in Interdisciplinary Contexts"

12 - 1pm

Lunch (Richard Harris Terrace)

12:30 - 1:45pm

Featured Panel (Richard Harris Terrace)

Title: "Mental Health and the Literature Classroom:

Psychoanalytically Informed Teaching - The Reach of Speech"

Description: Now that "mental health" is a social "good" to be "maintained," and the pressures of identity wars, political divisions, global conflicts, AI use, menacing populism, disdain for science and facts prevail, it is not surprising that "triggers" are everywhere and our post-COVID students seem beset by Zoom fatigue and listlessness. This panel contends that psychoanalysis has something to say about the possibilities for new engagement, and the opening of curiosity and desire in the literature classroom.

Chair & Speaker: Manya Steinkoler, English Department, BMCC, "Oedipus shouldn't take the Sphinx for Granite: On Self Phone, Obeastity, and Social Pogroms: The Unconscious in the Literature Classroom"

Speakers: Dr. Todd Dean, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst in St. Louis, "'Aberration of Starlight' or Why We Need Stories"

Guy Dana, French psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, and author, "When Psychoanalysis Comes to Mind"

Max Cavitch, English Department, University of Pennsylvania, "What Is Psychoanalytic Pedagogy?"

2 - 3pm

Panel Session Two (Concurrent Panels):

2A. Literature as a Wandering Course (Room N-471)

Chair: Francisco Delgado, English Department, BMCC

Speakers: Jessica Datema, English Department, Bergen Community College, "Wandering Constructions: Libidinal Ecologies of Learning"

Mary Crosby, English Department, Bergen Community College, "Wandering Traces in Poetry"

Caroline S. Kelley, English Department, Bergen Community College, "*Neurodivergent Housekeeping*"

2B. Trauma and Literature (Room N-488)

Chair: John Hodgkins, English Department, BMCC

Speakers: Jaime Weida, English Department, BMCC, "Fear is the Mind-Killer:" Using Literature to Address Trauma and Build Resiliency"

Sydney Elliott, English Department, Tillamook Bay Community College, "WandaVision and the Trauma-Informed Classroom"

Carole Gregory, English Department, BMCC, "Trauma and Two Writers"

2C. Wizards, Dragons, and Conflict in Literature (Room N-489)

Chair: Fred Solinger, English Department, BMCC

Speakers: Keridiana Chez, English Department, BMCC, "Exploring Literature and Health: Shaping Perceptions of Pain and Suffering through J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter"

David Pecan, English Department, SUNY Nassau Community College, "Ha/ollowed Grounds: Ecocriticism, 'Hauntology,' Postcoloniality, and Teaching the Literature of the Early World in the Community College Classroom."

3:15 - 4:15pm

Panel Session Three (Concurrent Panels):

3A. Exploring Black and Asian Solidarity and Healing Through Literature with Secondary ELA Educators (Room N-471)

Chair: Margaret Barrow, English Department, BMCC

Speakers: Diana Liu and David Beauzil, doctoral students, Teachers College, Columbia University

3B. Mind and Body (Room N-488)

Chair: Elizabeth Fow, English Department, BMCC

Speakers: Catherine Kapphahn, English Department, Lehman College, "Creating Space to Write the Stories Our Bodies Hold: The Power of Honoring Students' Personal History in the Classroom and Beyond"

Barbara Kitai, English Department, New York City College of Technology, "Holistic Healing & Alternative Medicine"

3A. Stories of Wellness (Room N-489)

Chair: Nancy Derbyshire, English Department, BMCC

Speakers: Meghan Gilbert, English Department, Guttman Community College, CUNY, "Composing a World: Literature and/as Wellness in a Community College"

Leigh Gold, English Department, New York City College of Technology, "Healing Literature: Reading through Trauma, Mourning, and the Natural World"

4:30pm

Raffle + To-Your-Health Cocktails (Richard Harris Terrace)

