

21st Annual Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference

Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres Street

Dr. Robert Bray, Director

9:00-9:15 Opening Remarks and Announcements, Dr. Robert Bray

9:15-10:30

Williams and Camp

In her famous 1964 essay, "Notes on Camp," Susan Sontag wrote, "Camp asserts that good taste is not simply good taste; but there exists, indeed, a good taste of bad taste. The discovery of the good taste of bad taste can be very liberating." Drama scholars discuss the idea of Camp in Williams's drama and how, according to Sontag, "Camp taste is, above all, a mode of enjoyment, of appreciation—not judgment."

Dr. Tison Pugh, University of Central Florida

Dr. Davis Robinson, Bowdoin College

Bess Rowen, Ph.D. Candidate, City University of New York

Dr. Annette Saddik, City University of New York (Moderator)

10:45-12:00

Williams and the Idea of Home

For Williams, the idea of home seemed to change substantially as he got older, and many of his plays often reflect a shift from specific locales (mostly southern) to more indeterminate geographical settings. As nursing homes and hotel rooms become fixtures in the aging author's imagination, does a southern home seem less stable and less sentimental for Williams?

Dr. Michael Hooper, St. Margaret's School (UK)

Karen Kohlhaas, documentary filmmaker, Tennessee Williams in the Mississippi Delta

John Lahr, New Yorker drama critic and author of Tennessee Williams: Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh

Dr. George Crandell, Auburn University (Moderator)

1:30-2:45

Educating Tom

Williams began his informal education by devouring most of his grandfather's library, but the record of his formal education illustrates his indifference and rebellion as well

as his precociousness and diligence. His university experiences included studies at the University of Missouri, Washington University, and the University of Iowa, where he received his degree in 1938. Williams scholars examine the writer's educational background from elementary school through university graduation and discuss how his studies helped shape his life and art.

Dr. John Bak, Université de Lorraine (France)

Professor Tom Mitchell, University of Illinois

Dr. Henry Schvey, Washington University

Dr. Jessica Dorman, The Historic New Orleans Collection (Moderator)

3:00-4:15

Exploring the MultiSouths

How do we define the South? Geographically, politically, culturally, or by all these factors and more? There is no fixed, monolithic South; instead, it is a richly variegated region with multiple identities and cultural complexities. Scholars gather to consider community, heritage, art, and other aspects of the fascinating region known as "The South."

Dr. Matt Dischinger, Louisiana State University

Dr. Meredith McCarroll, Bowdoin College

Dr. Trimiko Melancon, Loyola University New Orleans

Dr. Robert Bray, Middle Tennessee State University (Moderator)