



THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA
FOUNDED 1831

Association Internationale Zola et Naturalisme 30th Anniversary
AIZEN & University of Alabama International Conference

“Émile Zola, Naturalism, and Protest”

Program

Hosted by

The Department of Modern Languages and Classics, College of Arts and Sciences

University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA

March 3-5, 2022



Organizers-in-chief:

Juliana Starr - University of New Orleans, USA
Carmen Mayer - University of Alabama, USA

Aizen Organizing Committee:

President: Juliana Starr - University of New Orleans, USA
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Honored guest:

Anna Gural-Migdal - University of Alberta, Canada
& Honorary President of AIZEN

Special guests:

Jenny Grégoire - University of Alabama, USA
Tobias Picker - Artistic Director, Tulsa Opera, USA

Keynote Speakers:

Jennifer Yee - University of Oxford, England
Vittorio Frigerio - Dalhousie University, Canada

All conference sessions next door to [Hotel Capstone](#) at:

The [Bryant Conference Center](#) (BCC)
240 Paul W. Bryant Drive
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

2nd floor conference rooms - Wilson, Birmingham, Lackey

Located on the University of Alabama campus, Hotel Capstone is adjacent to the Bryant Conference Center, Paul W. Bryant Museum, and is across the street from Coleman Coliseum and the Mal M. Moore Athletic Facility. Hotel Capstone offers 150 guest rooms and suites, 12,000 square feet of event space, outdoor pool, and an on-site restaurant.



Thursday, March 3, 2022

The [Bryant Conference Center](#) (BCC - next door to Hotel Capstone)
240 Paul W. Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

8:45-10:00AM Registration (BCC, Atrium, 2nd floor)

10:00-10:30AM (Birmingham room, 2nd floor)

Opening Speeches and Tribute to the AIZEN 30th Anniversary

Introductions: **Carmen Mayer**

Dr. Tricia McElroy, Associate Professor of English and Associate Dean for Fine Arts,
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

Dr. Cheryl Toman, Professor of French and Chair, Department of Modern Languages and
Classics, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

Dr. Juliana Starr, Associate Professor of French and President of the AIZEN, University
of New Orleans

Dr. Carmen Mayer, Associate Professor of French and Vice President of the AIZEN,
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

10:30AM-12:00PM SESSION 1 (Birmingham room, 2nd floor)

Naturalism and Colonialism

Chair: Carmen Mayer

Keynote Speaker: **Jennifer Yee** (Christ Church, University of Oxford, England)
“Émile Zola’s Black Lives: Colonial Experiments and the Limits of Empathy”

12:00-1:00PM Lunch (BCC Atrium: catered by Taco Mama)

1:00-3:00PM SESSION 2.A - *Naturalisms in Africa* (Birmingham room, 2nd floor)

Chair: Maxime Vignon

- **John McDowell** (Burman University, Canada) “Colonial Naturalism: Reading Doris Lessing's *African Stories*”
- **Carolyn Snipes-Hoyt** (Burman University, Canada) “Documentary Neo-Naturalism: Gil Courtemanche and the Rwandan Genocide”
- **Christian Mbarga** (St Thomas University, Canada) “Une lecture naturaliste des *Chauvesouris*, de Bernard Nanga, est-elle possible? ”
- **Isaac Darko** (Burman University, Canada) “Naturalist Aspects in *The Marriage of Anansewaa* and its Contemporary Implications in Ghana”

1:00-3:00PM SESSION 2.B - *Protest and Vision in the Quatre Évangiles* (Wilson, 2nd floor)

Chair: Juliana Starr

- **Valentin Duquet** (University of Texas-Austin, USA) “The Peaceful Revolution: Saint-Simonian Visions of Society, Religion and Imperialism”
- **Carmen Mayer** (University of Alabama, USA) “Cries, Laughter, Silence, and Song: Lyrical Protest in *Travail*”
- **Ana Oancea** (University of Delaware, USA) “Zola’s and Verne’s Anticipation of the Technological Sublime”
- **Shoshana-Rose Marzel** (Zefat Academic College, Israel) “*Vérité* ou la dernière contestation de Zola”

3:00-3:30PM Break (BCC Atrium)

3:30-5:00PM SESSION 3.A - *Naturalist Life Cycles and Social Tensions* (Birmingham room)

Chair: Ana Oancea

- **Florence Fix** (Université de Rouen, France) “Maltraitance intrafamiliale des vieillards: regards de Zola et de quelques naturalistes sur la fin de la vie, les médecins et les parents”
- **Elizabeth Emery** (Montclair State University, USA) “The Privilege of Protest: Zola and the Duchesse de Persigny”
- **Adamu Danjuma Abubakar** (University of Alabama, USA) “The Role of Zola and Naturalism in Workers’ Protest, Combat, and the Quest for Social Justice”

3:30-5:00PM SESSION 3.B - *Revisiting Zolian Myths: Politics and Prose* (Wilson room, 2nd floor)

Chair: Mihaela Marin

- **Nicolas Valazza** (Indiana University, USA) “‘Le bain de sang... d’une horrible nécessité’: Zola et la semaine sanglante”
- **Toru Oda** (University of Shizuoka, Japan) “Precarious Narrative Protest: Toward Fraternal Humanity in *Les Rougon-Macquart*”
- **Francis Lacoste** (Université Bordeaux-Montaigne, France) “*La Débâcle*: Roman contestataire?”

5:30-6:30PM Champagne Reception at Gorgas House, 810 Capstone Drive

Poetry reading and violin performance: “Inspiration Zola”

Chair: Juliana Starr

Anna Gural-Migdal, Honorary President of the AIZEN and Professor Emerita (University of Alberta, Canada) & **Jenny Grégoire**, Violinist, Associate Professor of Violin, String Area Coordinator (University of Alabama, USA)

Dinner out, Tuscaloosa: Essential restaurants & Trip Advisor picks

Friday, March 4, 2022

8:30-9:00AM Registration (BCC Atrium)

9:00-10:30AM SESSION 4.A - *International Perspectives on Zola and Naturalism I* (Lackey room, 2nd floor)

Chair: Jean-Philippe Vauchel

- **Haroldo Ceravolo Sereza** (University of São Paulo, Brazil) “Why Read Brazilian Naturalism Nowadays?”
- **Élise Cantiran** (University Eötvös Loránd, Hungary) “Concepts of Individualism in Naturalist Fiction: The Self’s Liberation in Creole Writings”
- **Célia Vieira** (University of Maia, Portugal) “La voix naturaliste des écrivains-traducteurs”

9:00-10:30AM SESSION 4.B - *International Perspectives on Zola and Naturalism II* (Wilson room, 2nd floor)

Chair: Jennie Carr

- **Philippe Chavasse** (Rochester Institute of Technology, USA) “Utopie contestataire chez Camille Lemonnier et Georges Eekhoud”
- **Alexandre Dubois** (University of Mississippi, USA) “Utopian Geographies: The Violence of Unrealized French Projects in Africa”
- **Encarnación Medina Arjona** (University of Jaén, Spain) “‘Apostol de verdad’ ou les réactions de la jeunesse ibéro-américaine à l’Affaire Dreyfus: Zola et l’Amérique Latine”

10:30AM-12:00PM SESSION 5 (Wilson room, 2nd floor)

Naturalism and Anarchy

Chair: Carolyn Snipes-Hoyt

Keynote speaker: **Emeritus Professor Vittorio Frigerio (Dalhousie University, Canada)**

“Regards croisés anarchistes sur Émile Zola et le naturalisme”

12:00-1:00PM Lunch (BCC Atrium) catered by Jim ‘N Nick’s BBQ

1:00-3:00PM SESSION 6.A - *Naturalism in the Arts: Painting, Opera, Theater* (Lackey room, 2nd floor)

Chair: Carmen Mayer

- **Cameron Dodworth** (Methodist University, USA) “Protest Too Much: De facto Links Between Naturalism, and Decadence and Aestheticism”
- **Laura Pritchard** (University of Alabama, USA) “Operatic Adaptations of Émile Zola’s *Thérèse Raquin*: A Character Analysis”
- **Daniel Long** (Université Sainte-Anne, Canada) “Le théâtre de jeunesse de Zola, ou l’entrée en scène de l’apprenti contestataire”
- **Lionnelle Moussongou** (Université de Lille, France) “Esthétique théâtrale dans *Le Ventre de Paris* et *Pot-Bouille* d’Émile Zola: de la théâtralisation des récits à la contestation sociale”

1:00-3:00PM SESSION 6.B - *Women in Naturalism* (Wilson room, 2nd floor)

Chair: Céline Brossillon

- **Riikka Rossi** (University of Helsinki, Finland) “‘La haine est sainte’: The Emotions of Protest in Naturalist Fiction”
- **Evlyn Gould** (University of Oregon, USA) “The Salon of the Comtesse de Loynes and the Elusive Truths of Anti-Dreyfusard Politics in the Time of Zola”
- **Elisabeth-Christine Muelsch** (Angelo State University, USA) “Marie Colombier, A Female Naturalist Writer in France?”
- **Alexandra K. Wettlaufer** (University of Texas, Austin, USA) “The Gender and the Politics of Sympathy: Zola, Brunetière, and the Georges (Sand and Eliot)”

3:00-3:15PM Break (BCC Atrium)

3:15-5:15PM SPECIAL EVENT - Movie (Wilson room, 2nd floor)

Presenter: Elisabeth-Christine Muelsch

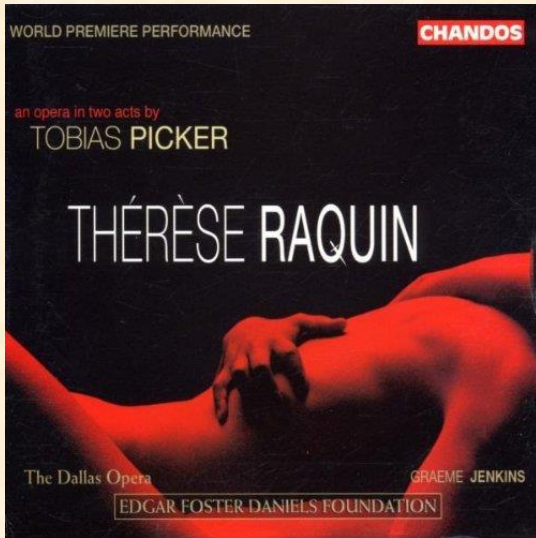
Thérèse Raquin, Marcel Carné, 1953, white and black, 102 min., in French with English subtitles



Thérèse, an orphan, has been brought up by her widowed aunt in a dingy backstreet shop in Lyon and married to her sickly first cousin Camille. Into their stifling existence comes Laurent, a lively Italian truck driver. He is immediately struck by Thérèse, who succumbs to him but will not abandon her husband and aunt. Once aware of the relationship, Camille and his mother plot to get rid of Thérèse.

6:00-7:00PM Reception and Conversation with Special Guest, Composer **Tobias Picker** at Bryant Jordan Hall (UA's Opera House)

7:30-10:00PM SPECIAL EVENT: *Thérèse Raquin* Opera



Music by **Tobias Picker**, English language Libretto by **Gene Scheer**, based on the novel by Émile Zola.

Presenters: Paul Houghtaling and Jamie Reeves

Tobias Picker's third opera commissioned by the Dallas Opera, San Diego Opera and the Opéra de Montréal. It premiered in November 2001.

Saturday, March 5, 2022

9:00-10:30AM SESSION 7.A - *New Perspectives on Germinal* (Lackey room, 2nd floor)

Chair: Gina Stamm

- **Kat Haklin** (Colorado College, USA) "Socio-environmental Protest and Animal Poet(h)ics in *Germinal*"
- **Jean-Philippe Vauchel** (University of New Orleans, USA) "Deux portraits inversés de la marginalité: du jeu cruel au crime de sang (une analyse comparative entre Jeanlin Maheu de *Germinal* et *Dorian Gray* d'Oscar Wilde)"
- **Tanya Mushinsky** (University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, USA) "Scène de vengeance à la fin d'une émeute dans *Germinal* d'Émile Zola"

9:00-10:30AM SESSION 7.B - *American Naturalisms* (Wilson room, 2nd floor)

Chair: Shoshana-Rose Marzel

- **David Davies** (Independent Scholar, England) "True, Unflinching Pictures or Presentations of Life: A Comparison of Émile Zola's *L'Assommoir* and Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie*"
- **Isabelle Schaffner** (École polytechnique, IP Paris, France) "*Germinal* (1885) d'Émile Zola et *The Jungle* (1906) d'Upton Sinclair: Littérature et combat social"
- **Minori Noda** (University of Waseda, Tokyo, Japan) "La ville et la famille dans les romans naturalistes: Une étude comparative sur Zola et Crane"

10:30AM-12:00PM SESSION 8.A - *Zola's Impact and Legacy* (Lackey room, 2nd floor)

Chair: Susan McCready

- **Juliana Starr** (University of New Orleans, USA) “Brothers in Justice: A Comparison of Émile Zola and Martin Luther King Jr.”
- **Mark Davis Kuss** (University of Holy Cross, USA) “The Reception of the Dreyfus Affair in Alabama and the Birmingham Civil Rights Campaign in France”
- **Joël Rochard** (Président, SLAEZ, Paris, France) “Zola House and Dreyfus Museum”

10:30AM-12:00PM SESSION 8.B - *Protest and Reform in Les Trois Villes* (Wilson room)

Chair: Elizabeth Emery

- **Donald Miller McLean** (University of Virginia, USA) “Doubt as Protest in Émile Zola’s *Rome*”
- **Maria Sayegh** (Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle, France) “Contestation et réforme sociale dans *Les Trois Villes* d’Émile Zola: entre réalité et utopie”
- **Christophe Ippolito** (Georgia Tech, USA) “Critique des liens entre religion et politique dans *Les Trois Villes*”

12:00-1:00PM Lunch (BCC Atrium) catered by the Bryant Conference Center

1:00-2:30PM SESSION 9.A - *Naturalism and Gender* (Lackey room, 2nd floor)

Chair: Cheryl Toman

- **Michael Rosenfeld** (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium) “Protester l’hétéronormativité fin de siècle: Narrations queer dans l’œuvre de Georges Eekhoud”
- **Céline Brossillon** (Ursinus College, USA) “The Taming of the ‘Bru’: Female Rebels in Zola’s *Thérèse Raquin* and Rachilde’s *Madame Adonis*”
- **Mihaela Marin** (University of South Alabama, USA) “Foules féminines, foules divines: sens anciens et modernes dans le traitement des foules chez Zola”

1:00-2:30PM SESSION 9.B - *La Modernité et la Machine: Narrative Time, Tempo, and Trauma in La Bête humaine* (Wilson room, 2nd floor)

Chair: Alexandre Dubois

- **Kevin P. Nonin** (University of Texas, USA) “L’évolution du temps social dans *La Bête humaine*: trois femmes, trois temps, un destin”
- **Molly Deaver** (University of Texas, USA) “Encoding Detective Fiction: Narrative Techniques of Suspense and the Experiment in Zola’s *La Bête humaine*”
- **Noémie Hamaide** (University of Texas, USA) “Zola, trauma et temporalité: approche moderne du trauma au XIX^e siècle”

2:30-2:45PM Break (BCC Atrium)

3:00-5:00PM AIZEN Finale: Hallowed Grounds self-guided Walking Tour – Race, Slavery and Memory at the University of Alabama (Click the link above for details)

6:30-9:00PM Banquet: Chuck's Fish (Click the link about the restaurant and its location)

Sunday, March 6, 2022

Excursion: Civil Rights Tour in Birmingham, Alabama

8:00AM - Guests depart Tuscaloosa to Birmingham by charter bus: embark near the Capstone hotel.

9:45AM-12:45PM - Civil Rights Tour (a unique 3-hour experience in English and in French)

We will visit many major civil rights landmarks during this moving walking and bus tour (for additional details, please click the following link).

[Guided Civil Rights Tour in Birmingham, AL | Red Clay Tours \(redclaytours.com\)](http://redclaytours.com)

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The organizing committee:

Juliana Starr - AIZEN President, University of New Orleans, USA
Carmen Mayer - AIZEN Vice President, University of Alabama, USA
Ana Oancea - AIZEN Secretary, University of Delaware, USA
Jean-Philippe Vauchel - AIZEN Treasurer, University of New Orleans, USA
Jeremy Worth - AIZEN Communications Director, University of Windsor, Canada
Justine Huet - AIZEN Assistant, Mount Royal University, Canada

The University of Alabama:

Cheryl Toman, Chair of The Department of Modern Languages and Classics
Charles “Skip” Snead, Director of The School of Music
Paul Houghtaling, Director of The UA Opera Theater and The UA Opera Guild
Jamie Reeves, Director of Orchestral Studies and Conductor of The Huxford Symphony Orchestra
Steven Trout, Chair of The Department of English
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Ashley Olive, Executive Director of The Bryant Conference Center
Taylor Smith, Conference Manager, Bryant Conference Center
Brandon S. Thompson, Director of the Gorgas House Museum

The City of Tuscaloosa:

Annette Smallwood, Sales Manager, Hotel Capstone
The managers and Staff of the local restaurants and catering: Urban Cookhouse, Taco Mama, Jim ‘N Nick’s
BBQ, Chuck’s Fish

The City of Birmingham:

Clay Cornelius, Tour Operator for the Civil Rights excursion, Red Clay Tours

The Associated Institutions and Organizations:

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Juliana Starr and Carmen Mayer, Co-Editors
Carolyn Snipes-Hoyt and Marie-Sophie Armstrong, Co-Associate Editors
Lisa Ng, Editorial Assistant

Guests:

Anna Gural-Migdal, Honored Guest, Honorary President of AIZEN, University of Alberta, Canada
Jenny Gregoire, Special Guest, Associate Professor of Violin and String Area Coordinator, School of Music, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA
Tobias Picker, Special Guest, Composer, Pianist, Artistic Director, Tulsa Opera, USA
Jennifer Yee, Keynote Speaker, Professor of Literature in French, University of Oxford, England
Vittorio Frigerio, Keynote Speaker, Professor of French, Dalhousie University, Canada

Heartfelt thanks to all panel chairs and organizers (in order of appearance):

Carmen Mayer, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA
Maxime Vignon, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA
Juliana Starr, University of New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
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Mihaela Marin, University of South Alabama, Mobile, USA
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