

Belief & Unbelief

IN POSTMODERN LITERATURE

Conference on Christianity and Literature | Western Regional Meeting | May 24–25, 2012
Seattle Pacific University* – Seattle, Washington

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



Amy Hungerford
Yale University

Author of *Postmodern Belief: American Literature and Religion Since 1960* (Princeton, 2010).



Kathryn Lofton
Yale University

Author of *Oprah: The Gospel of an Icon* (University of California, 2011).

CALL FOR PAPERS

In recent years, the so-called “New Atheists” — Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett, Sam Harris, and Christopher Hitchens — have taken up the cudgels against religious belief. At the same time, the “New Atheist Novel” (to borrow the title of Arthur Bradley and Andrew Tate’s new book) has made its debut as a genre, thanks to the efforts of sympathetic writers such as Ian McEwan, Martin Amis, Salman Rushdie, and Philip Pullman.

And yet religious belief is far from dead. Among the many contemporary manifestations of popular religion, there is the phenomenon of Oprah Winfrey and her congregation of viewers — the subject of a new book by keynote speaker Kathryn Lofton. And keynote speaker Amy Hungerford has traced the signs of “postmodern belief” in the work of Allen Ginsberg, Don DeLillo, Cormac McCarthy, and Toni Morrison, among other post-1960 writers.

While we specifically invite papers on literature of the post-1960 era, we welcome papers on belief and unbelief in older literary works as well. We also welcome proposals for entire sessions from prospective session organizers.

Email your one-paragraph abstracts and session proposals by **December 15, 2011**, to Dr. Mark Walhout at mwalhout@spu.edu.

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*Seattle Pacific University is located in Seattle’s Queen Anne neighborhood, just minutes away from downtown Seattle, Lake Union, Discovery Park, the University of Washington — and innumerable coffee shops.

Conference website: spu.edu/depts/english/ccl



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