



PAST FUTURES:  
THINKING IN CRISIS

Brown University

CHARLES BROCKDEN BROWN SOCIETY  
13TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

October 14-16, 2021

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14**

**8:30-8:55      Registration and Welcome**

**9-10:15        Session 1 - Crises of the Mind**

Chair: Sam Sommers

Alex Anderson, Purdue University

“‘[E]xcited by the silence’: Trauma and (Re)Action in *Ormond*”

Michael Cody, East Tennessee State University

“Withdrawing to a Dangerous Distance in ‘Somnambulism. A Fragment’”

Gerard Holmes, University of Maryland, College Park

“Surprise in Brockden Brown’s Time and Ours”

Jessica Van Gilder, University of Kentucky

“Metacognitive Disruptions in *Wieland*: The Dangers of Thinking in Crisis”

**10:30-11:45    Session 2 - Fictions of Enlightenment**

Chair: William Ryan

Pichaya Damrongpiwat, University of California Irvine

“The Lady and the Penknife: The Crisis of Gendered Violence in Samuel Richardson and Charles Brockden Brown”

Timothy Grieve-Carlson, Rice University

“The Long Shadow of the Enlightenment: History and Miracles in *Wieland* (1798) and Today”

Ross Martin, Harvard University

“An Upheaval in Thinking: Charles Brockden Brown and Philosophical Transformation”

Tony Papanikolas, Independent Scholar

“‘Modulation so Impassioned’: *Wieland* and the Crisis of Sound”

**12-1:30        Break for lunch**

**1:30-2:45        Session 3 - Historical Romance and Nationalist Myth**

Chair: Siân Silyn Roberts

AnaMaria Seglie Clawson, St. Norbert College

“Rewriting Crisis: Puritan Settlers and Dispossession in the Historical Romance”

John Funchion, University of Miami

"William Wallace, Early U.S. Insurrectionary Fiction, and the Mythology of Stolen Freedoms"

James M. Greene, Indiana State University

"Preaching through Crisis: Hugh Henry Brackenridge's Christian Nationalism"

Merav Schocken, University of California, Santa Barbara

"Reframing Crisis: The Rationalization of Settler Violence in Charles Brockden Brown's *Edgar Huntly*"

**3-4:15          Session 4 - State of the Field: Teaching, Labor, Mission**

Chair: Jacob Crane

Daniel Diez Couch, U.S. Air Force Academy

"The Imaginative Role of Fictional Character in the Early American Classroom"

Len von Morzé, University of Massachusetts Boston

"Found in translation: Brown's indigeneity and a course on multilingual American literature"

Sam Sommers, Auburn University

"Unionize!: An imperative for our Higher Ed Labor Crisis"

Brittany Sulzener, University of Kentucky

"Graduate Student Labor in the Time of COVID-19"

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15**

**9-10:15          Session 5 - Early America's Past Futures**

Chair: Daniel Diez Couch

Jacob Crane, Bentley University

"The Algerine Crisis and Republican Philadelphia"

Elizabeth Hewitt, Ohio State University

"Future Worlds: Speculative Fictions in the Early Nation"

Yvette South, St. John's University

"Crisis and Utopia in 'Signior Adini'"

Evert Jan van Leeuwen, Leiden University

"Telescope of the Imagination: Utopian and Dystopian Futures in the Dutch Republic 1780-1799"

**10:30-11:30      Session 6 – Environmental Connections: Climate, Region, Infrastructure**

Chair: Len von Morzé

Betsy Klimasmith, University of Massachusetts Boston

"Urban Connection in an Epidemic's Aftermath: *Ormond*, Latrobe, and the Philadelphia Waterworks"

Siân Silyn Roberts, Queens College, CUNY  
"Biology, Race, and Climate Crisis"

Lisa M. Vetere, Monmouth University  
"The Plantationocene in Philadelphia: Rebecca Rush's *Kelroy* at Earth Magnitude"

**11:30-1:30 Break for lunch**

**1:45-2:45 Session 7 - Black Liberation and the Aesthetics of Crisis**  
Chair: Keri Holt

Duncan Faherty, Queens College and the Graduate Center, CUNY  
"Haiti did it in 1804; this is just Round 2"

Laurel V. Hankins, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth  
"To Narrate and Refute"

Michelle R. Sizemore, University of Kentucky  
"Slow Rage"

**3-4:15 Session 8 - Formal Revolutions: Novel, Periodical, Fragment**  
Chair: Philip Gould

Robert Battistini, Centenary University  
"Incomplete Revolutions & Chronic Crisis: Narrative Interventions"

David Lawrimore, Idaho State University  
"State of Emergency: The Novel in Early America"

Matthew Pethers, University of Nottingham  
"A Recipe for Disaster: Social Crisis, Form, and the Early American Fragment"

William J. Ryan, Queensborough Community College, CUNY  
"'Security Against our Local Diseases': Mapping Health in Early Medical Periodicals"

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16**

**10-11:15 Session 9 - Imagining Early America Now: Teaching, Adaptation, Writing**  
Chair: Laurel V. Hankins

Keri Holt, Utah State University  
Diana Polley, U.S. Air Force Academy  
"Teaching with Crisis: *Reacting to the Past*"

Mark Kamrath, University of Central Florida

"Charles Brockden Brown and Netflix: Documentary, Drama, or Mini-series?"

Marion Rust, University of Kentucky

"Imaginative Writing and Social Critique in Early American Studies"

**11:30-1      Catered Lunch and Business Meeting**

**1:15-2:30      Session 10 - Reading: Influence and Interiority**

Chair: Karen Weyler

Thomas Koenigs, Scripps College

"Reading a Heart in Crisis: Fiction and Inner Life in Rowson's *Sincerity*"

Christopher Looby, University of California, Los Angeles

"Reading Maria Reynolds Reading"

Sam Plasencia, Colby College

"'Why sit ye here and die?' Maria Stewart's Call to Act Against the Crisis of Antirackness"

Allison Vanouse, Editorial Institute at Boston University

"Reading *Wieland* and Manoah Bodman: A Meditation on Frames"

**2:45-4      Session 11 - Imagining Belonging: Debating Citizenship in Early America**

Chair: Duncan Faherty

Benjamin Crawford, University of Alabama

"Disinterestedness in Crisis: Reflections on Disinterestedness in Arthur Mervyn"

Hannah Murray, University of Liverpool

"Carwin, Trolls, and Bots"

Richard Parmer, University of Kentucky

"The Falcon, the Yellow Head, and the Crisis of Queer Native Territory in Early America"

Edward Watts, Michigan State University

"The Crisis of Your Fortune: The Perennial Threat of Disunion in the Early Republic"

**5:00-7      Farewell Reception**

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**Charles Brockden Brown Society Officers**

*President:* Laurel V. Hankins, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

*Vice-President:* Keri Holt, Utah State University

*Secretary and Treasurer:* Karen Weyler, University of North Carolina Greensboro

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Hilary Emmett, University of East Anglia

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Hannah Lauren Murray, King's College

Matthew Pethers, University of Nottingham

William Ryan, Queensborough Community College

Sam Sommers, Auburn University

**Graduate Student Positions**

Emilee Durand, University of Maryland

Richard Parmer, University of Kentucky

Brittany Sulzener, University of Kentucky

**Land Acknowledgement Statement, from the Brown University Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative:**

<https://www.brown.edu/academics/native-american-and-indigenous-studies/land-acknowledgment>