



Speculations:

**Aesthetics, Risk, and Capital in the Circum-Atlantic World,
1790-1830**

**The Eighth Biennial Conference of the Charles Brockden Brown Society
CUNY Grad Center, New York City, 19-21 April 2012**

**Speculations:
Aesthetics, Risk, and Capital in the Circum-Atlantic World, 1790-1830
The Eighth Biennial Conference of the Charles Brockden Brown Society***

The Charles Brockden Brown Society: <http://www.brockdenbrownsociety.ucf.edu>

The conference theme emphasizes current interest in “speculations” (literary, political, financial, historical, philosophical) as a means of remapping the complexities of social and cultural production in the Atlantic world between 1790 and 1830. The revolutionary Atlantic of this time was a laboratory of new writing, new ideas, new paranoias, new frauds and exploitations, new land schemes and settlements, new economies, new enterprises in self-creation and authorship, and new desires for alternative worlds. What conjectures, innovations, risks, and predictions characterize or distinguish the revolutionary age? How do they challenge exceptionalist (nationalist) literary and cultural narratives or force paradigm shifts? What speculative practices do we need to talk about them? What are the speculations and investments of canonization and authorship? Charles Brockden Brown is of course often associated with speculations, but this eighth Society meeting will encourage attention to a broad range of texts and practices beyond those associated with Brown and his writings alone.

The conference program has been planned and organized by: Sari Altschuler (The CUNY Graduate Center), Andy Doolen (University of Kentucky), Michael Drexler (Bucknell University), Duncan Faherty (Queens College & The CUNY Graduate Center), Siân Silyn-Roberts (Queens College), Bryan Waterman (New York University), and Ed White (University of Florida).

Officers of the Charles Brockden Brown Society: Bryan Waterman (New York University), President; Duncan Faherty (Queens College & The CUNY Graduate Center), Vice-President; Fritz Fleischmann (Babson College), Executive Secretary/Treasurer.

Board Members of the Society: Andy Doolen (University of Kentucky); Michael Drexler (Bucknell University); Siân Silyn-Roberts (Queens College); Ed White (University of Florida); Sari Altschuler (Graduate Student Board Member, The CUNY Graduate Center); Sarah Blythe (Graduate Student Board Member, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

For support in making the conference possible, the Brown Society thanks Mark Kamrath, Fritz Fleischmann, and Will Dorner. For additional financial support, the Society warmly acknowledges Babson College and the American Studies Program at The CUNY Graduate Center.

For his donation of meeting premises and support of this conference, the society thanks President William Kelly of The CUNY Graduate Center. Thanks as well to the PhD Program in English at the Graduate Center. Special thanks as well to members of Graduate Center staff : Gayle Moynihan, Mary Frisque, Nancy Silverman, and Nicole Ricks.

*Previous meetings in Philadelphia (1998), Las Vegas (2000), Groningen (2002), New York (2004), New Orleans (2006), Dresden (2008), and Pasadena (2010).

Program
Thurs-Sat, 19-21 April 2012,
New York, NY, at the CUNY Graduate Center (365 Fifth Avenue)

Thursday, April 19
The Skylight Conference Room (9100)

9:00-10:00 Registration & Coffee

10:00-10:30 Welcome – William P. Kelly, President of the CUNY Graduate Center

10:30-12:00 Session 1

"Go Brown!" New Directions on Brockden Brown and American Literary History
Panel Chair: Fritz Fleischmann (Babson College)

- a) Ezra Tawil (University of Rochester) "Brown's Transformations and the Aesthetics of Adaptation"
- b) Elizabeth Hewitt (Ohio State) "'Perilous Precincts of Private Property': Brown vs. the United States"
- c) Michael Cody (East Tennessee State University) "Literary Credit and Credibility in 1820s Biographical Notices of Charles Brockden Brown"
- d) Philip Barnard (University of Kansas) "Historical Speculation: Brown's Early Writings on the History-Romance Nexus"

12:00-1:15 Lunch

1:30-3:00 Session 2

The Rise of the Racial Economy in the Atlantic World
Panel Chair: Andrew Newman (SUNY Stony Brook)

- a) Anna Mae Duane (University of Connecticut) "Education as Global Speculation: Joseph Lancaster, the American Colonization Society, and the New York African Free School"
- b) Andrea Holliger-Soles (University of Kentucky) "The African Theater, Domestic Imitations, and the American Culture of Servitude"

- c) Caroline Wigginton (Rutgers University) “Facing Zion Forward and Backward: Comprehending Visions of the Black Atlantic”
- d) Frank Kelderman (University of Michigan) “How Indians are Buried: Noah Webster, Magazine Culture, and Early U.S. Conjectures on the Mounds Builders”

3:15-4:45 Session 3

Periodical Culture and Serialization

Panel Chair: Sarah Blythe (UNC, Chapel Hill)

- a) Oliver Scheiding (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz) “Culture: Some Thoughts on Charles Brocken Brown's Periodical Career”
- b) Jared Gardner (Ohio State) “Periodical Economies: CBB and the Business of Magazines”
- c) Mark Kamrath (University of Central Florida) “‘To cook a dish to suit all palates will be a vain attempt’: *The South-Carolina Weekly Museum and Complete Magazine of Entertainment and Intelligence* (1797-1798)”
- d) Jillmarie Murphy (Union College) “‘...never sullied by the dust of the ground’: *The Humming-Bird; or Herald of Taste* (1798)”

5:00 – 6:15 Session 4

Biloquial Dreams, Global Visions

Panel Chair: James Lilley (SUNY Albany)

- a) Hilary Emmett (University of East Anglia) “Think Globally, Write Locally: *Memoirs of Carwin the Biloquist*”
- b) Wil Verhoeven (University of Groningen) “Sailing for Ohiopiomingo: The American Front of the French Revolution in England, 1789-1800”
- c) Brian Baaki (The CUNY Graduate Center), “Solomon Bayley’s *A Narrative of Some Remarkable Incidents* and the Birth of a (Sub-)Genre”
- d) Nicholas Miller (Washington University in St. Louis) “Speculative History: Mary Shelley’s *The Last Man* & the Politics of Indistinction”

Friday, April 20th

The Skylight Conference Room (9100)

8:30-9:15 Coffee

9:15-10:45 Session 5

Aesthetic Cross-Currents

Panel Chair: Chris Iannini (Rutgers University)

- a) Edward Larkin (University of Delaware) "Copley's Americanization of British Imperial Space"
- b) Len von Morzé (University of Massachusetts, Boston) "Georgic on the Mind: The Aesthetics of Work and the Legacy of Oglethorpe"
- c) Edward Cahill (Fordham University) "The Adventurous Muse: Aesthetics and Atlantic Mobility in Revolutionary Poetry"
- d) John Easterbrook (New York University) "Conservative Revolution in *The Soldier's Orphan* (1812)"

11:00-12:15 Session 6

Republic at Risk

Panel Chair: Jennifer Baker (NYU)

- a) Ben Bascom (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) "Speculating Body/Speculating Nation: John Fitch and the Republic of Risk"
- b) Danielle Skeehan (Northeastern University) "Subjects of the Pen: Paper Money and the Demographics of Empire"
- c) Julia Mansfield (Stanford University) "Invalid Knowledge: Tactics of Exclusion among Yellow Fever Scholars in the Early Republic"
- d) Matthew Wynn Sivils (Iowa State University) "William Cooper's Speculative Vision and the Proto-Environmental Ethic of James Fenimore Cooper's *The Pioneers*"

12:15-1:45 Lunch

1:45 – 3:15 Session 7

Literary Speculations

Panel Chair: Julie Kim (Fordham University)

- a) Keri Holt (Utah State University) “Stabilizing Speculation: The Productive Chaos of *The Anarchiad*”
- b) Angela Vietto (Eastern Illinois University) “Time, Art, and the Market: William Hill Brown and Mather Brown, Clockmakers’ Sons”
- c) Matthew Pethers (University of Nottingham) “The Early American Novel in Fragments: Serial Fiction and Speculative Reading in the Late 18th Century”
- d) Dietmar Schloss (University of Heidelberg) “Peace, Stability, and Risk: Joel Barlow on Commerce”

3:15 – 4:00 CBB Business Meeting

4:15 – 5:45 Session 8

Recovering Recovery; or, Canonical Speculations

Panel Chair: Michel Drexler (Bucknell University)

- a) Michelle Burnham (Santa Clara University), *The Travels of Hildebrand Bowman* (1778)
- b) Ed White (University of Florida), *The Hapless Orphan* (1793)
- c) Karen Weyler (University of North Carolina at Greensboro), *Dorval; or, The Speculator* (1801)
- d) Duncan Faherty (Queens College & The CUNY Graduate Center), *Monima, or the Beggar Girl* (1802)

6:15 – 7:15 Society Sponsored Reception

The Skylight Conference Room (9100)

Saturday, April 21st

The English Department Lounge Room 4406

9:30-11:00 Session 9

Romancing the Novel

Panel Chair: Sari Altschuler (The CUNY Graduate Center)

- a) Jessica Lang (Baruch College, CUNY) "To A Widow's Credit: Finance and Widowhood in Rebecca Rush's *Kelroy* and Beyond"
- b) Siân Silyn-Roberts (Queens College, CUNY) "*Julia and the Illuminated Baron*, Sally Wood's British Romance"
- c) Michelle Sizemore (University of Kentucky) "Romance and the Wonder World of the Revolutionary Atlantic"
- d) Robert Levine (University of Maryland) "James Fenimore Cooper's *Notions of the Americans* in a Speculative Context"

11:15-12:45 Session 10

Economies of Sentiment

Panel Chair: Jordan Stein (University of Colorado at Boulder)

- a) Stephen Shapiro (Warwick University) "Low Self-Esteem: Bourgeois Social Self-hatred and Sentimental Class Paradox"
- b) Thomas Scanlan (Ohio University) "Risky Business: Marriage, Fraud, and Flight in the Early Republic"
- c) Christopher Lukasik (Purdue University) "Speculation and the Sentimental Economies of *Jane Talbot*"
- d) Lauren Klein (Georgia Institute of Technology) "Sympathies of the Stomach: Lydia Maria Child's Speculative Taste"

12:45-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:15 Session 11

Memory, Memoir, Reverie, and the Future

Panel Chair: Andy Doolen (University of Kentucky)

- a) Christopher Sloan (Indiana University) "Pneumatic Politics and Early American Utopia"
- b) Lisa West (Drake University) "Speculations on the Past: The Ohio Company Rebuilds Marietta"
- c) William Ryan (Rutgers University), "Lives Fit to be Written": Novel Speculation in Benjamin Franklin's *Autobiography*"
- d) Nick Grant-Collins (CUNY Graduate Center) "A 'Back Settlements' Enterprise: Speculations on Maple Sugar, the Novel, and a Purified Commerce in Isaac Mitchell's *The Asylum*"
- e) Meredith Farmer (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) "Pathologizing Reverie"

Conference Dinner 6:00-8:00 – O'Reilly's Off Fifth (21 West 35th Street)