**DR. ANTHONY C. CAMARA**

Associate Professor

University of Calgary

Department of English

2500 University Drive NW

Calgary, AB, T2N 1N4

anthony.camara@ucalgary.ca

**EDUCATION**

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

PhD in English Literature (2013)

MA in English Literature (2010)

BA and BS in English Literature and Biology (2003)

**BOOK MANUSCRIPT**

“Dark Matter: British Weird Fiction and the Substance of Horror”

This project investigates a body of horror literature that has fallen into critical neglect because of its association with twentieth-century pulp magazines and “B-grade” films. “Dark Matter” recasts the *fin-de-siècle* revival of the Gothic, and British Aestheticism and Decadence more generally, as the inception of the popular literary movement known as “Weird fiction.” My study argues that the horrific objects featured in the genre—such as cursed antiquarian curiosities, alien artifacts, and metamorphic anatomies—dispute the materialism underwriting late Victorian accounts of biological life, physical substance, and the nature of the cosmos. By re-activating matter as an urgent philosophical problem, Weird horror fiction anticipates epochal developments in twentieth-century math and physics, in particular the discovery of subatomic particles, the emergence of non-Euclidean geometry, and Albert Einstein’s theory of special relativity. By dint of its speculative boldness, Weird horror influences modern Continental philosophy, cinema, television, and video games. The chapters examine the short fiction of Edith Nesbit, Arthur Machen, Algernon Blackwood, William Hope Hodgson, and H. P. Lovecraft, the most recognized writer in this massively popular and intellectually daring genre.

**BOOK CHAPTERS**

“Horror in the Wax Museum: Edith Nesbit’s ‘The Power of Darkness’ and the *Strand Magazine*,” *Women, Periodicals, and Print Culture in Britain, 1890s—1920,* eds. Faith Binckes and Carey Snyder, Edinburgh, UK: Edinburgh University Press, 2019, pp. 354-367.

“Attack of the Mushroom People: Ishirô Honda’s *Matango* and William Hope Hodgson’s ‘The Voice in the Night,’” *Monsters and Monstrosity from the Fin de Siècle to the Millennium*, eds. Sharla Hutchison and Rebecca Brown, Jefferson, NC: McFarland Press, 2015, pp. 69-91.

**JOURNAL ARTICLES**

“Computing Human Identity in Greg Egan’s *Permutation City*,” *Western Humanities Review* 73.1 (2019): 151-80.

“How to Hack Lovecraft, Make Friends with his Monsters, and Hijack his Mythos: Reading Race and Biology in Elizabeth Bear’s ‘Shoggoths in Bloom,’” *Studies in the Fantastic* 4 (2017): 24-47.

“Abominable Transformations: Becoming-Fungus in Arthur Machen’s *The Hill of Dreams*,” *Gothic Studies* 16.1 (2014): 9-23.

“We who had been human became—? Some Dark Ecological Thoughts on William Hope Hodgson’s ‘The Voice in the Night,’” *O-Zone: A Journal of Object Oriented Studies* 1.1 (2013): 37-43.

“Nature Unbound: Cosmic Horror in Algernon Blackwood’s ‘The Willows,’” *Horror Studies* 4.1 (2013): 43- 62.

“Bacteriology in Ella Hepworth Dixon’s *The Story of a Modern Woman*,” *Women’s Writing* 19.1 (2012): 58-75.

D.K. Jacobs, D.A. Gold, N. Nakanishi, D. Yuan, A. Camara, S.A. Nichols, V. Hartenstein “Basal Metazoan Sensory Evolution” *Key Transitions in Animal Evolution*, eds. B. Schieirwater & R. Desalle (CRC Press, 2010): 175-193.

D.K. Jacobs, N. Nakanishi, D. Yuan, A. Camara, S.A. Nichols, V. Hartenstein “Evolution of Sensory Structures in Basal Metazoa,” *Integrative and Comparative Biology* 47 (2007): 712-723.

**WORKING PAPERS**

“The Eco-Robotics of Elizabeth Bear’s ‘Tideline’” (to be completed summer 2022).

“Neural Netfics: Science Fiction Stories for You and Your Robot Family” (to be completed summer 2022).

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Spectral Citizens of the Future Digitopolis: Greg Egan’s *Permutation City,*” Calgary Institute for the Humanities conference: Spectral Cities, Calgary, Alberta, 2-3 November 2018.

“True Weird Detective: Arthur Machen’s ‘The Inmost Light,’” Walter Pater Society conference: Curiosity and Desire in Fin de Siècle Art and Literature, Los Angeles, California, 11-12 May 2018.

“Gothic Necrosexuality in Edith Nesbit’s ‘The Power of Darkness,’” Annual Conference of the International Gothic Association, Cholula, Mexico, 21-23 July 2017.

“Horror in the Wax Museum: Edith Nesbit’s ‘The Power of Darkness’ and *The Strand Magazine*,” invited talk, University of Calgary, 31 October 2016.

“Deleuze and Guattari’s Machinic Phylum and Elizabeth Bear’s Eco-Robotics,” International Deleuze Studies Conference, Rome, Italy, 11-14 July 2016.

“How to Hack Lovecraft, Make Friends with his Monsters, and Hijack his Mythos: Reading Biology and Racism in Elizabeth Bear’s ‘Shoggoths in Bloom,’” 2016 Congress, Calgary, AB, 28 May-3 June 2016.

“Lovecraft and the Dimensions of Speculation,” *Necronomicon* International Conference on H.P. Lovecraft, Providence, RI, 20-23 August 2015.

“Generalized Thermodemonics: Evil as an Energetic Process in Weird Horror Fiction,” Energies: Through the Material, Theoretical, and Textual, University of Southern California, 28-29 March 2014.

“The Higher Dimensions of Cosmic Horror, or Nature Warped by Outer Spaces: Algernon Blackwood’s ‘The Willows,’” The Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA) Conference on the “Postnatural,” Notre Dame University, 3-6 October 2013.

“Weird Cosmodemonology: Tapping into the Infernal Energy of Algernon Blackwood’s ‘The Wendigo,’” *Necronomicon* International Conference on H.P. Lovecraft, Providence, RI, 22-24 August 2013.

“Necro-Ecology: Exploring the Undead Black Mesh in William Hope Hodgson’s ‘The Place of Storms’ and ‘The Voice in the Night,’” Ecopoetics Conference, University of California, Berkeley, 22-24 February 2013.

“Intensive Horror: Deleuze and Guattari’s Becomings and the Weird Modernism of William Hope Hodgson,” Fifth International Deleuze Studies Conference, Tulane University, 25-27 June 2012.

“Civic Professionalism: Internships in the Context of Social Service,” Continuums of Service Conference, Seattle, WA, 11-13 April 2012.

“Abominable Transformations: Becoming-Fungus in Arthur Machen’s *The Hill of Dreams*,” British Association for Victorian Studies (BAVS) Conference, University of Birmingham, England, 1-3 September 2011.

“Stricken with Modernity: Consumption and Community in Ella Hepworth Dixon’s *The Story of a Modern Woman*,” Women Writers of the *Fin de Siècle* Conference, University of London, England, 28-29 June 2010.

**INVITED TALKS**

“Angst,” 2021 University of Calgary Free Exchange English Graduate Student Conference, co-keynote speech with Dr. Stefania Forlini, Calgary AB, 27 February 2021.

“The Eco-Robotics of Elizabeth Bear’s ‘Tideline,’” Beakerhead Arts and Technology Festival, Calgary, AB, 16-20 September 2015.

“Horror in the Wax Museum: Edith Nesbit’s ‘The Power of Darkness’ and *The Strand Magazine*,” University of Calgary, 31 October 2016.

**PUBLIC TALKS**

“Neural Netfics: Science Fiction Stories for You and Your Robot Family,” Calgary Public Library, 21 March 2019.

**PANEL DISCUSSIONS**

“*Frankenstein* at 200,” Beakerhead Arts and Technology Festival, Calgary, AB, University of Calgary, 20 September 2018.

**TEACHING**

Associate Professor, University of Calgary Department of English (July 2015-present)

List of courses taught includes English 201: Approaches to Literature; English 393: Science Fiction; English 449: Literature of the late Victorian Period; English 603/517/508: Cyberpunk seminar; English 388: Supernatural Horror in Literature; English 477: Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality in Science Fiction; and English 607: Posthuman seminar.

Lecturer, UCLA Department of English (2013-2014)

Designed and taught four courses during the academic year; course offerings included English 118A, an interdisciplinary class on science and literature; English 91C, an introduction to fiction; English 118B, a course on science fiction; and English 184, a seminar on the relationship between the horror genre and philosophy.

Coordinator, UCLA Center for Community Learning (2011-2012)

Taught English 195CE, a class that uses English as a disciplinary lens through which students approach community and corporate internship experiences; the course combines close reading, experiential learning, professional mentoring, and an introduction to the discipline of civic engagement.

Teaching Associate, UCLA English Department (2007-2011)

Taught English 10A, 10B, and 10C, the full English literature survey series; English 142B and 143, upper division courses on Shakespeare and Milton, respectively; and English 4W and 4WS, introductory English with a composition component. 4WS included an experiential learning module that placed students in various Los Angeles agencies including The Museum of Tolerance, The American Red Cross, and UCLA Hillel.

**DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

University of Calgary

Undergraduate Programming Committee Member (2020-2022)

Executive Committee Member (2015-2016)

Graduate Executive Committee Member (2016-2018)

General Comprehensive Examination Committee Member (2016-2018)

Winter 2017 Creative Writing Job Search Committee (2017)

**STUDENT SUPERVISION AND MENTORSHIP**

PhD students

Evan Gromel; will complete degree in approx. 2022 (Field exam committee member)

Heather Osborne; completed degree in November 2017 (Dissertation exam committee member)

T. A. Pattinson; PhD student, University of Calgary Department of Film, Media, and Communication; completed degree in August 2017 (Dissertation exam committee member)

Masters students

Elysha Snider; will complete degree in August 2022 (Chair/principal supervisor)

Zachary Brewer; completed degree in February 2018 (Thesis exam committee member)

Michael Thorn; completed degree in August 2017 (Chair/principal supervisor)

Samantha Massey; completed degree in November 2015 (Thesis exam committee member)

Honors Students

Valerie Moody; will complete program in 2022 (Supervisor)

Morgan Schille; will complete program in 2022 (Supervisor)

Rukhsar Ali; complete program in 2020 (Supervisor)

Isaac Celis; completed program in 2017 (Supervisor)

Allison McFarland; completed program in 2017 (Supervisor)

Masters Capstone projects

Jonathan Chau; completed program in 2016 (Supervisor)

Mentorship

Dania Idris (2019-current; graduate research assistant)

Brennan Caines (2017-8; undergraduate research assistant)

Emilie Medland-Marchen (2017-8; undergraduate research assistant)

**RESEARCH ASSISTANCE**

Research Associate, David K. Jacobs Laboratory, UCLA Department of Evolutionary Biology and Ecology (2003-2006)

Used molecular biology laboratory techniques to investigate the genetics of sensory structures in invertebrate animals and to promote conservation of endangered species of California coastal fish

**LANGUAGES**

Spanish (proficient in reading, speaking, and writing)

French (proficient in reading)

**GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND FUNDING AWARDED**

University of Calgary SSHRC IDG Enhancement Grant for “Decolonizing Lovecraft: Speculative Posthumanism and Contemporary Science Fiction” ($4,000; 2017-2018)

University of Calgary USRG SEED Grant for “Decolonizing Lovecraft: Speculative Posthumanism and Contemporary Science Fiction” ($11,000; 2017-2019)

UCLA Department of English Lectureship (2013-2014)

UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship (2012-2013)

UCLA Center for Eurasian and European Studies Travel Grant (2010)

UCLA Center for the Study of Women Travel Grant (2010)

UCLA Graduate Summer Mentorship Grant (2009)

**MEMBERSHIPS, AFFILIATIONS, AND HONORS**

Golden Key Honors Society; Phi Beta Kappa Society; National Society of Collegiate Scholars

(2003-current)

*Magna Cum Laude* Latin Honors; overall GPA 3.82 (2003)

Made UCLA Provost’s list for academic achievement nine times (1998-2003)