

2018 Robinson Jeffers Association Conference – Speakers

Kevin Batton has spoken at previous RJA conferences on aspects of Jeffers and Classicism. He is current Executive Director of the Robinson Jeffers Association.

Brett Colasacco is a PhD candidate in Religion, Literature, and Visual Culture at the University of Chicago Divinity School, where he is completing a dissertation on Robinson Jeffers. He also serves as editor of *Sightings*, a semiweekly digital publication of the Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion. Brett has presented at every RJA conference since 2014, and organized and moderated a panel on Jeffers at the American Literature Association conference in 2015. He has contributed to *Jeffers Studies* and is a newly elected member of the RJA advisory board.

Richard Drake is a historian of Europe and the United States. After graduate work in American history at Brown University and UC Santa Barbara, he earned a PhD at UCLA in 1976 with a specialty in European history. He then taught at UCLA, UC Irvine, Wellesley College, and Princeton University before joining the University of Montana history department. His courses at UM include European Cultural and Intellectual History, Contemporary Europe, Modern Italy, and Terrorism in the Modern World. After publishing four books about Italian history, the course on terrorism prompted the expansion of his research interests to include the United States.

Deborah Fleming is professor of English at Ashland University, and editor and director of the Ashland Poetry Press. She has published "Towers of Myth and Stone: Yeats's Influence on Robinson Jeffers" as well as "'A man who does not exist': The Irish Peasant in the Work of W. B. Yeats and J. M. Synge"; two collections of poetry "Morning, Winter Solstice" (2012) and "Into a New Country" (2016) as well as two chapbooks; a Vietnam War/hippie novel, "Without Leave" (2014) which won the Asheville Award from Black Mountain Press. She has also published scholarship, poetry, fiction, and nonfiction in many academic journals.

Geneva Gano, the immediate past president of the Robinson Jeffers Association, is an Assistant Professor of English at Texas State University, where she teaches American literature from an interdisciplinary perspective. She is currently at work on revisions to her book on modern little arts communities, "Continent's End: Carmel, Provincetown, Santa Fe," which will be published Summer 2019 by Edinburgh University Press.

Jessica A. Hunt seeks emotional resonance in the rhetorical dialogue between composer, audience, and performer by creating eclectic acoustic and electro-acoustic works that explore the intersections between theatre, narrative, truth, and fiction. Her concert music has been heard on FM radio, PBS television, the Pro Organo CD label, and performed in concert by the Gaudete Brass Quintet, Axiom Brass, Fulcrum Point, Ensemble 20+ (Michael Lewanski), Jonathan Ryan, R. Benjamin Dobey and numerous others, and read by the DePaul Symphony Orchestra (Cliff Colnot), ICE, and Dal Niente. Her commissions include works for the Michigan Lighthouse Landmark Legacy Project, the Palomar Ensemble, Columbia College Chicago Jazz Ensemble, the Gaudete Brass Quintet, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and others,

including several works for the stage. Ms. Hunt is the 2017-2018 Young Composer in Residence with the Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings, a 2018 Fellow in the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy, and is currently a DMA pre-candidate at the University of Michigan, studying with Erik Santos and Kristin Kuster.

Tim Hunt is editor of the 5-volume *Collected Poetry of Robinson Jeffers* (1988 - 2011, Stanford University Press). He is emeritus professor at Illinois State University, and a published poet.

Tim Jelfs is assistant professor of American Studies at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands, where he has taught since 2011. British by birth, he received his PhD in American Studies from King's College London, and specializes in the cultural, literary, environmental and political history of the United States in the 20th and 21st centuries. He has published literary critical essays on the work of Don DeLillo, Marilynne Robinson and Nicholson Baker, and is working on a cultural history of materialism in the early neoliberal period, as well as an analysis of themes of crisis, action and occupation in the post-9/11 United States.

Robert Kafka is current president of the Robinson Jeffers Association.

James Karman is editor of several books on or about Jeffers, including the 3-volume *Collected Letters of Robinson Jeffers with Selected Letters of Una Jeffers* (2009 - 2015, Stanford University Press). He is emeritus professor of English and Religious Studies at California State University Chico.

Mick McAllister, an independent scholar, has been a publishing literary scholar for 42 years. His first publication on Jeffers was a close reading of "Return," published in the *Robinson Jeffers Newsletter* #40 (November, 1974), which was selected for reprinting in *The Robinson Jeffers Newsletter: A Jubilee Gathering, 1968-1988*.

Crystal Ockenfuss is an independent scholar and poet associated with the Goethe Institute of San Francisco. She has published widely on various topics in German literature, including Gottfried Benn, Joseph von Eichendorff and Elfriede Jelinek. In 2013, her poetry chapbook, "The Hobo Alphabet," appeared with Dancing Girl Press of Chicago.

Aaron Yoshinobu is a Professor of Geosciences at Texas Tech University. He grew up in Pacific Grove, CA, and received his PhD from USC (Jeffers's alma mater) in 1999. Aaron specializes in structural geology, the evolution of mountain ranges and ocean basins and has published over 30 articles on these subjects. He conducts research on the physical/chemical evolution of magmas, how they are emplaced/erupted, and how heat transfer in the crust affects plate tectonics. Past field research areas include Tierra del Fuego, Chile/Argentina, Norway, Oman, and the western Cordillera of the U.S. He is currently funded to work on the nature of magmatism and crustal evolution in the Klamath Mountains, northern CA. Since 2003, Aaron has integrated the poetry and life of Robinson Jeffers into his research program and has focused on the interactions of earth science, stonemasonry and poetry. He has published one article in *Jeffers Studies* on the period from 1919-1923 and is working on a pictorial volume on the chronology of construction of Tor House and Hawk Tower.