

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY



Steinbeck as an International Writer

May 4–6, 2016
San José, California

sponsored by

SJSU | MARTHA HEASLEY COX CENTER
FOR STEINBECK STUDIES

The International Society of Steinbeck Scholars

Keynote Speakers

Richard Astro, Provost Emeritus and Professor of English, Drexel University
Robert DeMott, Edwin and Ruth Kennedy Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Ohio University

Conference Directors

Nicholas P. Taylor, Director, Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies
Tom Barden, Professor Emeritus, University of Toledo
Barbara A. Heavilin, Professor Emeritus, Taylor University

Conference Steering Committee

Danica Čerče, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
Chuck Etheridge, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Mimi Gladstein, University of Texas, El Paso
Luchen Li, University of New Hampshire

Wednesday, May 4

11:30AM - 12:45PM

Check-In and Buffet Lunch

Center for Steinbeck Studies, MLK Library 5th Floor

1:00PM - 2:15PM

Welcome and Keynote Address

Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor

Welcome

Nicholas P. Taylor

Director, Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies

Barbara A. Heavilin

Professor Emeritus, Taylor University

Keynote Address

Richard Astro

Provost Emeritus and Professor of English, Drexel University

2:30PM - 3:45PM (Concurrent Sessions)

Mothers, Matriarchy, and Mother Earth in *The Grapes of Wrath*

Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor

Barbara Heavilin

Professor Emeritus, Taylor University

“A Sacred Bond Broken: Humanity and the Earth in *The Grapes of Wrath*”

Rachel King

Winthrop University

“She’s old an’ she’s ornery’: The Feminization of the Automobile in *The Grapes of Wrath*”

Iti Roychowdhury (*paper presented in absentia*)

Amity University Madhya Pradesh

“Their Dreams - Her Dreams: Exploring the Portrayal of Mother in *The Grapes of Wrath* by Steinbeck and *The Mother* by Gorky”

Steinbeck, Modernism, and Biography

Cultural Heritage Center, MLK Library 5th Floor

Paul Douglass

San Jose State University

“Why Isn’t John Steinbeck Considered a ‘Modernist’ Writer?”

Brian Duchaney

Boston University

“Steinbeck, World War II, and his Public Literary Memoir: a Literary Investigation of his *New York Herald Tribune* Writings”

Kevin Hearle

Independent Scholar and Founding Member of the *Steinbeck Review* Editorial Board

“‘The Genuine American’ in Stockholm: The International Context of Steinbeck’s Speech Accepting the Nobel Prize in Literature”

Katherine King

San Jose State University

“Modernism and the Munroe Curse”

4:00PM - 5:15PM

Reading Steinbeck at Home and Abroad

Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor

Megan Barnes

Loyola Marymount University

“Sir Steinbeck and the Green Knight: A Re-Examination of *To a God Unknown*”

Chuck Etheridge

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

“Immigration, Migration, and *East of Eden* (in manuscript and in the published version)”

Aya Kubota

Bunka Gakuen University

“A Japanese Appreciation of *Of Mice and Men*: Farm Hands Knowing ‘Mono no Aware’”

5:15PM - 6:45PM

Dinner on your own

7:00PM - 8:30PM

Beethoven in Love

Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor

A recital of Beethoven’s vocal music featuring SJSU music professors Joseph Frank and Layna Chianakis and their students. This event is part of MLK Library’s First Wednesdays series and is sponsored by the Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies.

Thursday, May 5

8:00AM - 9:00AM

Continental Breakfast

Center for Steinbeck Studies, MLK Library 5th Floor

9:00AM - 10:15AM

Re-examining *Sweet Thursday*

Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor

Kristen Amiro

Mount Saint Vincent University

“Suzy's Gold Star: A Holistic Education”

Bill Lancaster

Texas A&M University-Commerce

“Subtle Sedition and Saintly Subversion: Satire and Parody in Steinbeck's *Sweet Thursday*”

10:30AM - 11:45PM (Concurrent Sessions)

Writers, Doctors, and Scientists

Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor

Donald Kohrs

Stanford University

“Ed Ricketts and Jack Calvin: The Publishing of *Between Pacific Tides*”

Kiyoshi Yamauchi

Niimi College, Japan

“John Steinbeck in Sick”

Jeff Yeager

West Virginia University

“Steinbeck's Literary Depictions of Physicians”

Travels with Charley

Cultural Heritage Center, MLK Library 5th Floor

Cecilia Donohue

Retired Scholar

“Logos, Ethos, Pathos, Caninus: Rhetorical Strategies in Steinbeck/Steinbeckian Dog Memoir”

Kylie Regan

Purdue University

“Steinbeck as Satirist: *Travels with Charley* and the American Masculinity Crisis”

Andrew Vogel

Kutztown State University of Pennsylvania

“The Cognitive Landscape, Hermeneutics, and Alienation in John Steinbeck’s *Travels with Charley*”

12:00PM - 1:30PM

Banquet Luncheon

Center for Steinbeck Studies, MLK Library 5th Floor

Banquet Speaker

Robert DeMott

Edwin and Ruth Kennedy Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Ohio University

1:45PM - 3:00PM (Concurrent Sessions)

Steinbeck's Influence on Contemporary Authors

Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor

Sonia Hamilton

University of California - Berkeley

“The Legacy of Steinbeck's Interchapters: The Effects of Palimpsest on Group Consciousness and Universality”

Brian Railsback

Western Carolina University

“A 21st Century Grapes of Wrath: Jesmyn Ward’s *Salvage the Bones*”

Netta Bar Yosef-Paz

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

“Filthy ‘Others’ in 1990s Environmentalist Fiction: from Steinbeck to Boyle”

Steinbeck in Eastern Europe

Cultural Heritage Center, MLK Library 5th Floor

Danica Čerče

University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

“The Popularity of Steinbeck's *East of Eden* among Slovene Readers”

Luchen Li

University of New Hampshire

“Understanding International Conflicts with Steinbeck through His Russian Experience”

Susan Shillinglaw

San Jose State University
"Steinbeck in Russia"

3:15PM - 4:30PM (Concurrent Sessions)

The Grapes of Wrath

Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor

William Brevda

Central Michigan University
"Specters of Joad"

Chaker Mohamed Ben Ali and Salah Eddine Merouani (*presented in absentia*)

University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria
"Echoes of Islam in *The Grapes of Wrath*"

Kotaro Nakagaki

Daito Bunka University, Japan
"Get Your Kicks on Route 66: Cultural Legacy of Steinbeck's Hobo Images in American Popular Culture"

Steinbeck's Philosophy

Cultural Heritage Center, MLK Library 5th Floor

Richard Hart

Bloomfield College
"Steinbeck and Western Philosophy"

Fred Jensen

University of Buffalo
"Eternal Liminality, Transitions, and Weology"

Arun Khevariya (*presented in absentia*)

Kendriya Vidyalaya, Chhatarpur, M.P., India
"Biological Determinism in John Steinbeck: A Study of His Novels with Reference to *The Pastures of Heaven*, *The Long Valley*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *East of Eden*"

Cody Roane

West Virginia University
"The Snake': A Teleological Mystery"

5:00PM - 7:00PM

Dinner on your own

7:00PM - 9:30PM

Cinco de Mayo “Pachanga” Ceremony by Playwright Luis Valdez (7:00pm - 8:15pm) followed by a Reading by U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera (8:15pm - 9:30pm)

Hammer Theatre, 3rd Street and Paseo San Antonio (1 block from the library)

SJSU alumnus **Luis Valdez** is a playwright, actor, writer and film director. Regarded as the father of Chicano theater in the United States, Valdez is best known for his play *Zoot Suit*, his movie *La Bamba*, and his creation of El Teatro Campesino. This “pachanga” ceremony is directed by his son, **Kinan Valdez**, currently the Producing Artistic Director of El Teatro Campesino, and staged in conjunction with the SJSU Theatre Department.

The son of migrant farmworkers, **Juan Felipe Herrera** is the author of 28 books of poetry, novels for young adults, and collections for children, including “Half the World in Light: New and Selected Poems” (2008), winner of National Book Critics Circle Award and the International Latino Book Award. His other honors include fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, two Latino Hall of Fame Poetry Awards, and a PEN / Beyond Margins Award. Elected a Chancellor for the Academy of American Poets in 2011, Prior to his appointment as United States Poet Laureate in 2015, Herrera served as the Poet Laureate of California from 2012-2015.

Friday, May 6

8:00AM - 9:00AM

Continental Breakfast

Center for Steinbeck Studies, MLK Library 5th Floor

9:00AM - 10:15AM (Concurrent Sessions)

Steinbeck and Ethnicity

Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor

Jeanette Rumsby

Independent Scholar

“On the ‘Lee’ Side: Chinese Representation in Steinbeck's Works”

Didier Arcade Loumbouzi (*presented in absentia*)

Université Marien Ngouabi, Brazzaville, République du Congo

“Ethnic minorities and John Steinbeck's global vision”

Mimi Gladstein

University of Texas at El Paso

“Steinbeck's ‘Mexifilia’ from *Tortilla Flat* to *Viva Zapata!*”

Ecocriticism and Social Ecology

Cultural Heritage Center, MLK Library 5th Floor

Khawla Bendjemil

University of May 8th, 1945, Guelma, Algeria / SIUE, Illinois, USA

“An Ecocritical Reading of John Steinbeck's *To a God Unknown*”

Lowell Wyse

Loyola University Chicago

“Access and Aridity in Steinbeck's Watersheds”

10:30AM

Departure for Steinbeck Festival in Salinas (optional)