

Steinbeck and the Twenty-First Century:  
Identity, Influence, and Impact

May 1-3, 2019

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Library  
San José State University

Keynote Speaker

**Susan Shillinglaw**, San José State University

Conference Director

**Nicholas P. Taylor**, Director, Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies

Conference Steering Committee

**Cecilia Donohue**, Madonna University (Retired)

**Barbara A. Heavilin**, Professor Emeritus, Taylor University

**Kathleen Hicks**, Grand Canyon University

Sponsored by the International Society of Steinbeck Scholars and *Steinbeck Review*

Wednesday, May 1

**12:00PM - 12:45PM**

**Check-In and Lunch**

*Center for Steinbeck Studies, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**Welcome**

**Nicholas P. Taylor**

Director, Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies

**1:00PM - 2:15PM (Concurrent Sessions)**

**Approaches to *The Grapes of Wrath***

*Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**Chaker Mohamed Ben Ali**

University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

“Algerian Immigrants: Contemporary Joals”

**Robin Provey**

Western Connecticut State University

“Seeds of #MeToo Movement Planted under the Orange Trees in *The Grapes of Wrath*”

**Approaches to *East of Eden***

*Cultural Heritage Center, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**Jennifer Ren**

Houston Baptist University

“Disappearing Out of Existence: An Examination of Identity in *East of Eden*”

**Carter Johnson**

Virginia Military Institute

“*East of Eden*: Steinbeck’s Monomyth”

**2:30PM - 3:45PM**

**Steinbeck and Millennials**

*Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**Lori Newcomb**

Wayne State College

“Planting a Seed: Steinbeck’s Challenge to Millennials”

**Ryder Miller**

Independent Scholar

“John Steinbeck and Genre Fiction”

## 4:00PM - 6:00PM

### Film Screening: *The Bikes of Wrath*

*Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor*

In this 2018 documentary film, five Australians attempt to cycle 2600 kilometers from Oklahoma to California in honor of the westward migration undertaken by the Joad family in Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. Through chance encounters with everyday Americans, the cyclists expand on the novel's core themes of migration, inequality and the perceived land of opportunity. The group explores whether America has progressed since the book was written, discussing the wealth gap, immigration and the American Dream.

*The screening will be followed by a Q&A with director **Charlie Turnbull**.*

## 7:00PM - 8:30PM

### Steinbeck Fellows Reading

*Center for Steinbeck Studies, MLK Library 5th Floor*

Join us for a reading of new fiction by three of the 2018-2019 Steinbeck Fellows in Creative Writing. These fellowships are awarded annually by the Center for Steinbeck Studies to emerging writers of exceptional promise. This event is free and open to the public. Reception to follow.

**Katie M. Flynn's** stories have appeared or are forthcoming in *Colorado Review*, *Indiana Review*, *Joyland Magazine*, *Juked*, *Ninth Letter*, *Witness Magazine*, and elsewhere. She is the recipient of Colorado Review's Nelligan Prize for Short Fiction and a fellowship from the San Francisco Writers' Grotto and serves as fiction editor at *Split Lip Magazine*.

**Kirin Khan** was an AWP Writer-to-Writer mentee, and has received fellowships from PEN America's Emerging Voices program, the San Francisco Writers' Grotto, and the Vermont Studio Center. Her essay "Tight" was nominated by Nat. Brut for a 2018 Pushcart Prize, and her writing has appeared in *The Margins*, *Your Impossible Voice*, *7x7.LA* and elsewhere.

**Christine Vines** is a fiction writer from Wichita, Kansas, currently living in Oakland, CA. Her work has appeared in *The Chicago Tribune*, *Joyland*, *Witness*, *Electric Literature*, *The Writer's Chronicle*, and elsewhere. She was a fiction finalist for the Jeffrey E. Smith Editor's Prize from *The Missouri Review* and a runner-up for The Nelson Algren Award from *The Chicago Tribune*. She was a 2018 WK Rose fellow for Vassar College. She received her MFA from Cornell University, where she also taught English and creative writing. For four years, she ran the Fiction Addiction reading series in New York City.

Thursday, May 2

**8:00AM - 9:00AM**

**Continental Breakfast**

*Center for Steinbeck Studies, MLK Library 5th Floor*

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

**Reading Steinbeck Politically (or Not)**

*Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**Naama Cohen**

Tel Aviv University

“Of Charismatic Radicals and Anarchists: James Franco's *In Dubious Battle* and the Disavowal of Steinbeck's Politics”

**Danica Čerče**

University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts

“John Steinbeck on East European Markets”

**Barbara Heavilin**

Taylor University (emeritus)

“whose light burns clear’: Musings on John Steinbeck, America, and Light”

**Tracing Steinbeck's Legacy in the US and Abroad**

*Cultural Heritage Center, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**Chaker Mohamed Ben Ali**

University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

“The Influence of John Steinbeck on Algerian Culture”

**Kotaro Nakagaki**

Senshu University, Japan

“Souls of People: Steinbeck's Cultural Legacy in Japanese Popular Culture”

**Cecilia Donohue**

Madonna University (retired)

“From ‘Beach Read’ to Ethnic Urban Drama: John Steinbeck's Imprint on the Twenty-First Century Novel”

**10:30AM - 11:45PM**

**Keynote Address**

*Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**Susan Shillinglaw** is Professor of English at San José State University. For 18 years she directed the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies at SJSU and more recently served as Director of the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas. She has published several books on Steinbeck, including *Carol and John Steinbeck: Portrait of a Marriage* (University of Nevada Press, 2013), *On Reading The Grapes of Wrath* (Penguin, 2014), and *A Journey into Steinbeck's California* (2006, rev. 2011). She also wrote the introductions to the Penguin editions of Steinbeck's *Cannery Row*, *Of Mice and Men*, *A Russian Journal* and *The Winter of Our Discontent*.

Dr. Shillinglaw's talk is sponsored by the SJSU College of Humanities & the Arts and the exhibition "The Art of Biography," currently on display in the 5th Floor Special Collections Gallery.

**12:00PM - 1:15PM**

**Lunch**

*Center for Steinbeck Studies, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**1:15pm - 1:30PM**

**Official Welcome to Campus**

*Center for Steinbeck Studies, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**President Mary A. Papazian**

San José State University

Dr. Mary A. Papazian joined San Jose State University as its 30th president on July 1, 2016. Before coming to SJSU, Papazian was president of Southern Connecticut State University, provost of Lehman College of CUNY, and dean of humanities and social sciences at Montclair State University. A scholar of John Donne, she holds a Ph.D. in English Literature from UCLA. She is the editor of two scholarly volumes and the author of dozens of articles, book reviews, and conference presentations.

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

**Digital Steinbeck**

*Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**David Wrobel**

University of Oklahoma

“Teaching *The Grapes of Wrath* in the Digital Humanities Age”

**Peter Van Coutren**

San José State University

“The Cox-Manville Online Steinbeck Bibliography”

**Marisa Plumb**

San José State University

“Digital Humanities Possibilities for Steinbeck Studies”

**Ethnicity in Steinbeck's Life and Work**

*Cultural Heritage Center, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**Noelle Brada-Williams**

San José State University

“‘A Great and Lasting Story’: Steinbeck’s Representations of Ethnic Identity”

**Kevin Hearle**

Independent Scholar

“‘If There Was Any Color Prejudice in Salinas...’: Constructions of Race in Steinbeck’s Hometown

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

**Steinbeck's Women**

*Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**Bruce Lawson**

Independent Scholar and Publisher

“The Forgotten Wife”

**Audry Lynch**

Independent Scholar

“Steinbeck and His Women”

**Steinbeck's California**

*Cultural Heritage Center, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**Donald Kohrs**

Harold A. Miller Library, Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University  
"John Steinbeck's Progressive California"

**Gerard Kuperus**

University of San Francisco  
"Steinbeck as Environmental Philosopher: Providing Hope in the Anthropocene"

Friday, May 3

**8:00AM - 9:00AM**

**Continental Breakfast**

*Center for Steinbeck Studies, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**9:00AM - 10:15AM**

**Migrants and Immigrants**

*Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**James “Jake” Torrie**

Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario

“Sources of Solidarity: Tom Joad, Bare Life, and the Displaced Person”

**Debra Cumberland**

Winona State University

“My Mother and Donald Trump”

**Mimi Gladstein**

University of Texas at El Paso

“Business and Migration: As Relevant Today As in Steinbeck's Time”

**SJSU Student Panel**

*Cultural Heritage Center, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**Gabriele LaFrank**

San José State University

“The Black Sheep of ‘The White Quail’”

**Megan DeGroot**

San José State University

“How Do I Get to Be a Boy?: Steinbeck's exploration of gender non-conformity”

**Ana Hans**

San José State University

“What is Truth Really?”



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

**Steinbeck and Human Ecology**

*Schiro Program Room, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**Christopher Bowman**

University of Minnesota

“The Western Land, Nervous’: An Ecocritical Reading of *The Grapes of Wrath* in a Time of Climate Change”

**Jim Kent**

Independent Scholar

“John Steinbeck: The First Social Ecologist”

**Comparison and Contrast**

*Cultural Heritage Center, MLK Library 5th Floor*

**Elisabeth Bayley**

Loyola University Chicago

“A Comparative Exploration of John Steinbeck’s ‘The Chrysanthemums’ and *The Pearl*”

**Kiyoshi Yamauchi**

Niimi University

“John Steinbeck and Saul Bellow: Influences and Impacts on Each Other”

**Aya Kubota**

Bunka Gakuen University

“Novelists as Teachers: Educational Factors of Steinbeck and Achebe”

**12:00PM - 8:00PM**

**Tour of Steinbeck’s Salinas with Professor Susan Shillinglaw**

**Itinerary:**

- Red Pony Ranch
- Steinbeck’s gravesite
- Walk along Main Street Salinas
- National Steinbeck Center
- Dinner at Steinbeck House

The bus will leave SJSU at 12pm and will return at approximately 8pm.

**OR**

**12:00PM - 1:30PM**

**International Society of Steinbeck Scholars Leadership Lunch**  
(Agenda Forthcoming)