FRANKENSTEIN AND POPULAR CULTURE

Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Creation and Publication of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein.


Hosted by the University of Wisconsin–Madison Department of Medical History and Bioethics.

Susan E. Lederer and Lester D. Friedman, symposium co-chairs
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

7:15 PM  Welcome and Opening Remarks

7:30 PM  Film Screening
          *The Bride of Frankenstein* (1935)

          Post-Screening Discussion
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM  Breakfast
Union South, see “Today in the Union” for specific location

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM  Session One
*I am fearless and therefore powerful: Monster Theory*

Chair: Jenell Johnson, University of Wisconsin-Madison


Catherine Belling, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, “Frankenstein among the Aliens: Circular Creation and a Posthuman Prometheus.”

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM  Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM  Session Two
*We are fashioned creatures, but half made up: Film*

Chair: Brent Notbohm, University of Wisconsin-Superior

Barry Grant, Brock University, St. Catharine’s Ontario, “‘Just a Few Stitches -- and Look’: Popular Film as Frankenstein”

Susan Lederer, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, “Dr. Frankenstein, I Presume: Medicine and the Monster in Film.”

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  Lunch
Please note that lunches are provided for registered participants; Union South offers a variety of food options for local visitors.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM       Session Three
*How Dare you sport thus with life*: History of Science and Bioethics

Chair: Nicole Nelson, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Paul Root Wolpe, Emory University, “Frankenstein and the Golem: Two models of aesthetics and creation for modern biotechnology”

Allison Kavey, CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the CUNY Graduate Center, “‘The inestimable benefit which I shall confer on all mankind to the last generation’: The contest over the means and motivating for making natural knowledge in Frankenstein.”

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM       Break

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM       Session Four
*I ought to be thy Adam, but I am rather the fallen angel*: Disability

Chair: Lester D. Friedman, Hobart and Smith College

Mark Mossman, Western Illinois University, “Atypical Bodies, Personal Narrative, and the Nation: Physical Difference in Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*”

Angela Smith, University of Utah, “Walk this Way: Frankenstein’s Monster, Zombies, and Disability Simulation.”

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM       Break/Snacks/Drinks
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM       Session Five
If I cannot Inspire love, I will cause fear: Theater

Chair: Travis Weisse, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Tess Jones, University of Colorado Medical School, “‘What was I?’: Human Experimentation in Shelley’s Frankenstein and Buchner’s Woyzeck”

Matthew Buckley, Rutgers University, “‘It lives! It lives!’: Gaslight, Neo-Gothic Melodrama, and Frankenstein’s Popular Cultural Birth”

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM       Free Time

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM       Dinner
Steenbock’s on Orchard, Discovery Building

7:30 PM       Lecture
Union South
Lester D. Friedman, Hobart and Smith College, “Creature Features: Frankenstein’s on Film”
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29**

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM         Breakfast

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM        Section Six
*How ignorant art thou in thy pride of wisdom*: Technology

Chair: Pablo Gómez, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Despina Kakoudaki, American University, “Unmaking People: The Politics of Negation from *Frankenstein* to *Westworld*”

David Guston, Arizona State University, “Frankenstein and Contemporary Techno-Science”

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM       Session Seven
*Only someone as ugly as I am could love me*: Graphic Narratives

Chair: Dana Freiburger, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Lisa Diedrich, SUNY Stony Brook, “*Monster en abyme*: sympathy and ill feeling in graphic Frankenstein narratives”

Elizabeth Young, Mt. Holyoke College, “Black Frankenstein at the Bicentennial”

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM       Wrap Up Comments