Summary report on 2020 Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900

The 48th. annual Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900 took place successfully in Feb. 2020, with featured talks and readings by Jed Rasula, Helen S. Lanier Distinguished Professor at the University of Georgia; Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Forrest Gander; Mexican poet Coral Bracho; Marisa Parham, then professor of English and digital humanities at Amherst College and now the new director of the African American History, Culture and Digital Humanities (AADHum) initiative at the University of Maryland; and Calvino Prize winner Margie Sarsfield. This year’s conference featured 282 registrants from six different countries, giving and / or attending 241 scholarly papers and creative readings across 74 panels.

The conference could not go forward without the generous support of the following programs and departments: the Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society (and its excellent staff, Janna Tajibaeva and Brandon Harwood), the Departments of English, Comparative Humanities, and Classical and Modern Languages, the Latin American Studies program, and the English Graduate Organization. Thanks are due also to the following colleagues from English who served on the conference committee: Joshua Adams, David Anderson, Matthew Biberman, Mark Mattes, Kristi Maxwell, Fran McDonald, and Ian Stansel.

Like its director, the conference will take a sabbatical in Feb. 2021 due to the various uncertainties—health-related, financial, and logistical—created by the coronavirus pandemic. We expect to reconvene in Feb. 2022.

Alan Golding

Conference Director