

SPLENDID DIFFICULTY: Teaching Conrad

MLA24 Modern Language Association 2024 (Philadelphia) / In-Person Panel / January 2024

Conrad's works feature linguistic sophistication, narrative complexity, psychological nuance, subtle irony, political contestation, and historical challenge. While some might seek to avoid difficulty, this panel instead embraces difficulty and considers how precisely the most challenging aspects of Conrad's art can empower students and cultivate subtlety, humanistic and historical breadth, and even humility. This panel features papers that consider how the multivalent difficulty of Conrad's works – syntactic, psychological, political, or aesthetic – offers pedagogical opportunity.

Sponsored by the Joseph Conrad Society of America, the panel is chaired by Debra Romanick Baldwin (University of Dallas) and comprises four papers.

“Not Difficult, Opaque”

ROBERT VOLPICELLI / Randolph-Macon College

“Why Teach Conrad Today, and What Works?”

JANA M GILES / University of Louisiana at Monroe

“Teaching *Under Western Eyes* with *Crime and Punishment* & Wright's *The Outsider*:
Horror & Redemption”

SHOSHANA MILGRAM KNAPP / Virginia Tech

“Teaching Conrad & the Visibility of Race in the Media-thinking Classroom.”

RODRIGO MARTINI PAULA / University of Georgia

Paper Title

MILGRAM KNAPP / Virginia Tech

Paper Title

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