

*The Comparative Literature Luncheon Series presents*

# The Disintegration of Civil War Memory in *Brown v. Board* Literature

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Clemson University

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015**

**12:15 - 1:20 P.M.**

**102 KERN**

Presentation and discussion begin at 12:30  
Lunch provided!

In 1963, as the Civil War centennial commemoration unfolded in the midst of the Civil Rights movement, James Baldwin declared that "the country is celebrating one hundred years of freedom one hundred years too soon." In the decade leading up to Baldwin's declaration, Flannery O'Connor, Carson McCullers, and Gwendolyn Brooks staged the aesthetic disintegration of Civil War memory even as they represented racial integration in public education. O'Connor's "A Late Encounter with the Enemy" (1953) and McCullers's *Clock Without Hands* (1961) counter the lost cause mythology of *Gone with the Wind* by irreverently converting Civil War memory from lived experience to cultural narrative. Brooks's 1960 Emmett Till poems explicitly represent the generic disintegration of Civil War memory as chivalric romance.

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**SPRING 2015  
UPCOMING TALKS**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16  
"The First Hebrew Shakespeare  
Translations"

LILY KAHN, University College  
London

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

"Towards an Aesthetics of  
Stigmata: From Van Gogh's  
Paintings to Claire Denis's Films"

SABINE DORAN, Penn State

MONDAY, MARCH 2

"Mirrored Resonance: Writing  
English in Chinese Characters"

JONATHAN STALLING,  
University of Oklahoma

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