



World Literature Student Conference 2018: “THE ROAD NOT TAKEN” :WHAT’S SO WRONG WITH DIFFERENCE?

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Photos by Apple Cabrera*

180 attendees.
29 undergraduate
presentations.
4 diverse panels.
1 evening of
intellectual and
social engagement.

2018’s World Literature Student Conference marked the 4th annual celebration of undergraduate dedication in World Literature. Hosted in Halpern Centre on SFU’s Burnaby Campus, this year’s conference with the theme *The Road Not Taken: What’s so Wrong with Difference?* showcased a variety of presentations. Topics ranged on everything from cinema, music, and the image, to literature and investigations of the socio-political, cultural, and

literary fallouts of cross-national encounters and beyond.

Each of the previous three conferences have been attended by approximately 180 students, faculty, alumni, and members of the public and have been successful in showcasing the work of the undergraduate presenters in a formalized setting. This year, 29 undergraduates from different departments presented papers across 4 individually-focused conference panels on aspects of World Literature and global culture.

Highlighted in the conference this year was the



gral in the context of World Literature. Each presentation maintained its unique and individual flavour as the impressive work that the contributors delivered was rich and varied in nature.

The gala that followed the conference continued to showcase student creativity and dedication through musical performances and entertainment. The event was an outstanding success and strengthened the foundations for future academic student conferences to build upon and to grow World Literature's relationship with other departments within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

inclusion of presentations from undergraduate students from multiple faculties and in multiple languages. Not only did the presenters come from departments beyond World Literature, including French, but they also diversified in terms of languages, with presentations conducted in French integrated throughout the four panels.

These panels worked to thematically distinguish different interpretations of the theme of What's So Wrong with Difference? Panel 1A, Inner Landscapes: Imagination and the Evolution of Self dealt with presentations on identity and introspective analysis that addressed the concepts of difference. Running concurrently, panel 1B, Raising Voices: The Art of Marginalized Communities looked at

varying cultures and communities and the embrace of their respective marginality.

Following a short break, panels 2A, History's Ripple in the Cloth: Finding Past in the Present and 2B, The Human Knot: Relationships and Connections in Literature deal with themes of time and connectivity that are inte-

