



24th Annual MELUS Conference
April 8-11, 2010
The University of Scranton
Scranton, PA

Theme: Ethnic Transformation in the Self and the City

Plenary Speakers: Jay Parini, Marilyn Chin, Sonia Sanchez, and Dara Horn



Please email abstracts to:
Prof. Joe Kraus & Prof. Susan Mendez
melus2010@gmail.com

Hotel rooms have been set aside at the
Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel
700 Lackawanna Ave
Scranton, PA 18503
(570) 342-8300

All presenters, chairs, and respondents must be members of MELUS. Membership information can be found on the MELUS website (www.melus.org). All payments of membership dues must be mailed directly to MELUS, not to the conference organizers.

People make cities and cities make people. Reductive as that claim is, it stands at the heart of much of the ethnic American experience. Immigrants originally inherit the cities in which they settle. Then, as they come to know their new culture and as their children grow and develop, they remake their communities, creating places that reflect the multiple strands of their origins. For scholars of ethnic literature, American cities stand, in part, as texts themselves. They reflect the immigrant experience as it has taken place, and they contextualize the possibility for future immigration.

We invite paper abstracts and complete panels, workshops, and roundtable proposals on all aspects of the multi-ethnic literatures of the United States. We are particularly interested in proposals for papers that explore literature of the city and theories of the urban experience in a multi-ethnic context.

Submissions should detail requests for specific audiovisual equipment, if needed. We also ask that a proposal for a complete panel, roundtable, or workshop include a brief description of the central topic, supplemented by brief abstracts of individual speakers' contributions.

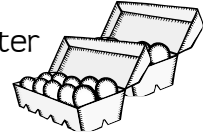
**The deadline for abstracts and proposals
(250 words) is
December 21, 2009.**

MELUS: *Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*

Top 10 Reasons to come to Scranton in 2010

10. Make it an even two dozen

MELUS 24 is your last chance to be part of the first quarter century of MELUS conferences.



9. Scranton is accessible

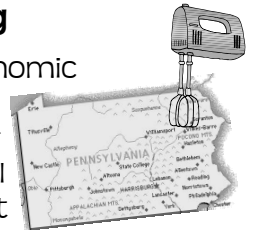
The Scranton/Wilkes-Barre airport is less than 15 minutes from campus, and it's served by most major airlines. Scranton is also less than a two-hour drive from New York City and Philadelphia, and it's within a four-hour drive of most of the major East-Coast cities.

8. Take **the office** tour

There is no Dunder-Mifflin, but the TV show draws on all sorts of local landmarks, establishments, and events. Get your picture taken in front of Farley's.

7. Northeast Pennsylvania is ground zero for ethnic mixing

Scranton and Wilkes-Barre are undergoing impressive economic revitalizations, and that's drawing waves of newer immigrant populations. The controversy in nearby Hazleton - where the mayor and council have promulgated one of the most restrictive anti-illegal immigrant laws in the country - shows some of the tensions that arise.



6. There's more to do in Scranton than you think

There are 7 galleries, 3 independent coffee houses, a national park, restaurants with several different ethnic traditions, and a number of places to hear live music. And that's just within easy walking distance of the conference site.



5. The Road to the White House runs through Scranton

Joe Biden is a Scranton native as was Hillary Clinton's father, and Hillary spent her childhood summers in town. Throughout the 2008 Presidential election, it seemed as if establishing a connection to Scranton meant establishing a particular kind of American authenticity.



4. Scranton's ethnic heritage is unusually visible

One good outcome of a half-century of tough times in the post-coal era: we never tore down our classic buildings. Take a quick walk around the downtown, and you can sense much of the story of the peoples who came to work the mines and build the world's first "electric city," the first to have its own electric grid.



3. Plenary speakers include Jay Parini, Marilyn Chin, Sonia Sanchez and Dara Horn reading from their work and discussing literature and the ethnic experience.



2. As Michael Scott of The Office puts it, "Ain't no party like a Scranton party, 'cause a Scranton party don't stop."

1. It's MELUS, the one chance of the year to meet with your fellow leading scholars of multi-ethnic literature.

