

# Conference Program

Tuesday, 25 March 2026  
Collegium Maius, Ludwik Kolankowski Hall, 307

9:45 a.m. – opening of the conference

**10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., session 1,**

Chair: Prof. Mirosława Buchholtz

Prof. William Walsh, Lauren Dose, and Olivia Ruzicka (graduate students), Reinhardt University [onsite],

## **Andalusia**

### **The Key to Understanding Flannery O'Connor's Fiction**

**11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. – Coffee break**

**12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m., session 2,**

Chair: Prof. Lucyna Aleksandrowicz-Pędich

Dr. Katalin G. Kállay, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary [onsite],

### **The Breath of the Imaginary and Gestures of the Ordinary in Flannery O'Connor's "Good Country People"**

Prof. Christopher P. Heuer, University of Rochester [onsite],

## **Left In the Sun to Blink**

### **O'Connor's Early Graphics**

Lisa Hinrichsen, Associate Professor of English, University of Arkansas [onsite],

### **Scalecraft and Spirit: Flannery O'Connor's Ecological Vision in the Anthropocene**

Lunch, 1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

**3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. – Keynote lecture [online]**

Chair: Prof. Mirosława Buchholtz

Prof. Christine Flanagan, St. Joseph's University (Philadelphia),

## **Flannery O'Connor: A Life in Letters**

**4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. – Panel session [hybrid]**

Chair: Prof. Christine Flanagan

## **Alternative Biographies: Identity and Invisibility in the Life of Flannery O'Connor**

Confirmed panelists:

Robert Donahoo, PhD, Robert Sam Houston State University [online],

### **Reading Flannery O'Connor's Self-Portraits: Canvases and Pages**

Monica Carol Miller, Ph.D., Middle Georgia State University [online],

### **Dear Regina: Flannery's Letters from Iowa**

Kathleen Lipovski-Helal, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin [onsite],

### **A Mystery Box: Flannery O'Connor in the Archives**

5:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Coffee break

**6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. – session 3**

Chair. Dr. Beata Williamson

Dr. Kathleen Lipovski-Helal, University of Texas at Austin [onsite],

**But Even Above Grief, Wonder: *Wildcat* and its Sources**

Prof. Mary Graw Leary, The Catholic University of America [online],

**The Reciprocal Relationship Between Flannery O'Connor, Violence, and the Law**

**7:15 p.m.-9:15 p.m., room 311**

*Wildcat* (105 minutes) screening and discussion/comments

Wednesday, 26 March 2026

Collegium Maius, Ludwik Kolankowski Hall, 307

**8.15 a.m.-10:00 a.m.**

*Flannery* screening (95 minutes) and discussion/comments

**10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. – Panel discussion [hybrid]**

Chair: Prof. Lucyna Aleksandrowicz-Pędich, SWPS University

**Exploring Short Stories by Flannery O'Connor in Teaching Literature**

Confirmed panelists: Prof. Marek Paryż (University of Warsaw), Dr. Beata Williamson (University of Gdańsk), Rev. Dr. Andrzej Persidok (Catholic Academy in Warsaw, Collegium Joanneum), Dr. Krzysztof Majer (University of Łódź), Prof. Mirosława Buchholtz (Nicolaus Copernicus University)

Session 4A, 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Ludwik Kolankowski Hall, 307 Chair: Dr. Beata Williamson	Session 4B, 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Room 119 Chair: Dr. Dorota Gutfeld
Prof. Sławomir Studniarz, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn [onsite], <b>“Everything that rises must converge”: Revisiting Teilhard de Chardin’s influence on O’Connor’s late fiction</b>  Ana Barroso, PhD candidate, University of Lisbon [onsite], <b>The Underbelly of the American Dream: Depictions of violence in Flannery O’ Connor and its resonance in Cormac McCarthy’s novels</b>  Mateusz Naporowski, MA student, University of Silesia [onsite], <b>Metamodern Sensibility in Flannery O’Connor’s “A Good Man is Hard to Find”</b>	Prof. Janusz Kaźmierczak, Adam Mickiewicz University [online], <b>Flannery O’Connor and the Iowa Writers’ Workshop: An encounter that mattered</b>  Dr. Sarah Sandfort, the Hochschule der Bildenden Künste (HBK) Essen [online], <b>“Her Eyes” Flannery O’Connor in artworks by Roni Horn</b>  Prof. Joseph Kuhn, Adam Mickiewicz University [online], <b>Wise Blood and the Body in Shock: Histories, Contexts, Theologies</b>

<p>Mahmoud Abu Hanieh, MA student, Nicolaus Copernicus University [onsite],  <b>The mythical nature of the South in O'Connor's fiction</b></p>	<p>Dr. Marta Miquel-Baldellou, University of Lleida [online],  <b>"All the Other Things the Old Man Knew": Aging as a Southern Gothic Trope in Flannery O'Connor's Short Fiction</b></p>
<p>Lunch break, 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.</p>	
<p>Session 5A, 3:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m.  Ludwik Kolankowski Hall, 307  Chair: Prof. Mirosława Buchholtz</p>	<p>Session 5B, 3:00p.m.-4:45 p.m.  Room 119  Chair: Dr. Jarosław Hetman</p>
<p>Johanna Merz, PhD candidate; Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich [onsite],  <b>Literature as a Means of Grace in Flannery O'Connor</b></p> <p>Fernanda Rossini, PhD candidate, TU Dortmund University [onsite],  <b>Encounters with God: Approaching the Child Characters in Flannery O'Connor's Narratives through Jacques Maritain's Philosophical Thought</b></p> <p>Prof. Mary Burke, University of Connecticut [online],  <b>Mixed Messages: Interraciality in Georgia-Irish writing</b></p> <p>Dr. Ranjini George, University of Toronto [online],  <b>Meeting Flannery in Iowa: Letters, Biographies and Prayer Journal</b></p>	<p>Heidi Johnson, M.L.I.S., M.A. Assistant Professor; The College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN [online],  <b>Sisters: Flannery O'Connor's Reception by Women Religious</b></p> <p>Dr. José Manuel Correoso-Rodenas, Universidad Complutense de Madrid [online],  <b>Flannery O'Connor Goes Carolingian: Ruby Turpin's "Medieval" Revelation</b></p> <p>Dr. Alicja Chmiołek, University of Gdańsk [online],  <b>"People Like to See a Blind Preacher." John Huston's Film Adaptation of Flannery O'Connor's <i>Wise Blood</i></b></p> <p>Prof. Şenol Bezci, Ankara University [online],  <b>A Freudian Interpretation of "A Late Encounter with the Enemy"</b></p>
<p>4:45 p.m., Ludwik Kolankowski Hall, 307  <b>Illustration Competition – Announcement of the Winning Projects</b>  <a href="https://art.umk.pl/flanneryoconnor/">https://art.umk.pl/flanneryoconnor/</a>  <b>Closing Remarks</b></p>	