

Character and Place Conference Schedule

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Session 1 - 12 Noon-12:45 p.m.

Panel A - Social Justice and Health Straatmeyer

Why Did Ralph Go Free? Understanding Iowa's Rights Heritage

From the first ruling of its Supreme Court in 1839 freeing Ralph Montgomery from slavery through its 2009 decision permitting same-sex marriage, Iowa has been a leader in protecting equality rights. Why is this, and how have these protections shaped Iowa and Iowans?

Brian Farrell, Law, U of Iowa College of Law

Is Zip Code the Most Important Determinant of Health?

Research shows us that where a person lives may be the single greatest factor in determining health status. This presentation will show how zip code and neighborhood can be a predictor of health and other outcomes.

Jeremy Whitaker, Public Health, Allen College

Panel B - Authenticity, Voice, and Home Babka Theatre

Shifting our Perceptions of Home through Service Learning with Native Peoples

Most Euro-American perceptions of home are shaped by ideas that justify and normalize colonization and conquest. Presenters will truth-tell and examine the meaning of home and homeland from an expanded perspective, challenging dominant capitalist Euro-narratives of "hard work" and "The American Dream."

Angela Brandel, Teacher Ed, U of Dubuque

Alice Oleson, Sociology, U of Dubuque

We All Live at the Borderlands: Learning to Dwell in the Third Space

We all dwell at borders – geographically, but also in terms of individual and collective identity. If we accept the ways we all inhabit third space, we may create a society where all can feel at home.

Elizabeth Deifell, Applied Linguistics, U of Iowa and U of Dubuque

Session 2 - 12:55-1:40 p.m.

Panel A - Social Justice and History Straatmeyer

Race, Youth, and Student: A (Trans)formation of Characters from the 1960 Greensboro Sit-ins

In 1960, college students walked off their campuses and into the surrounding community of Greensboro to claim their place as citizens and as human beings. This paper examines the case of the Greensboro sit-ins as a case of character (trans)formation through the simultaneous breaking hegemonic moralities and shaping of new moralities.

David Deifell, Communication, Clarke U

Home and Character in the History of American Adoption

Through critical discourse analysis of sources regarding adoption spanning the 20th century, this presentation examines changing cultural meanings attached to the presumed relationship between the character of adoptive parents and the formation of character in adopted children.

Amy Evrard, Anthropology, Gettysburg College

Panel B - Authenticity, Voice, and Home, Continued Babka Theatre

Language as Home: Writing, Desire, and Authenticity in the "Traveling Heavy" by Ruth Behar

This presentation will discuss the concept of home in "Traveling Heavy," a memoir by anthropologist Ruth Behar. For Behar and many others like her, the search for home is a process of self-fashioning that requires personal responsibility for the formation of one's character.

Jeannine Pitas, Comparative Lit, U of Dubuque

Growing Up

The tradition of using illustrative stories is an ancient one, a way of educating that Jesus himself adopted in his parables. In this personal essay, Dale Easley depicts people and events that shaped him during his formative years in rural North Carolina.

Dale Easley, Geology and Statistics, U of Dubuque

Session 3A - 1:50-2:20 p.m.; Session 3B - 2:30-3:00 p.m. All roundtables in 3A are duplicated in 3B. Choose one per session.

Roundtable 1 - Family Influence on Vocation and Career Choice - Babka Theatre

We will discuss family values, practices, and beliefs instilled in us throughout our upbringing and how these affect our vocation and career choices, work values, and overall developmental process in discerning our life's purpose in terms of work.

Anne Funke, Career and Vocational Development, U of Dubuque

Roundtable 2 - Home Shapes Us: A Conversation on Professional Impairment of Social Workers - Babka Theatre

Professional impairment in social work is not a new topic. This conversation is looking at continuing factors contributing to this problem including socialization connected to family of origin. The discussion will be looking at risks connected to impairment including parentification and/or physical, sexual, and emotional abuse in the family.

Ammertte Deibert, Sociology and Social Psychology, Grand View U

Roundtable 3 - Building Good Households: Dwelling Together Faithfully in a Digital Environment - CyberCafé

Building character in our 21st Century media-dominated world challenges households. Digital distractions place intense pressures on meaningful conversation and civility. How can families cultivate virtue in an age permeated by digital media? Thought leaders, ancient and contemporary, move us from diagnosis toward a praxis of dwelling together faithfully.

Stephanie Bennett, Communication, Palm Beach Atlantic U

Calvin Troup, Communication, Geneva College

Roundtable 4 - Open Conversation on Character and Place - CyberCafé

Join University of Dubuque faculty for discussion on character and place.

Susan Forshey, Theology, U of Dubuque Theological Seminary (Session 3A4)

Mary Anne Knefel, Library Science, U of Dubuque (Session 3B4)

Session 4 - 3:30-4:45 p.m.

Panel - Wendt Research Team: Character and . . . Place - Babka Theatre

The Hospitality of Homemaking

The practice of hospitality can happen in various places. In this presentation, the concept of hospitality is explored with an emphasis on making our homes places to serve others.

Peg Kerr, Nursing Education, U of Dubuque

Home Away From Home: Homesickness in First-Year College Students

Homesickness afflicts many first-year college students and impacts academics and retention rates. Activities that contribute to virtue and character development provide antidotes to homesickness.

Pam Fields, Education, U of Dubuque

Localized Character

Globalization has placed the souls of our cities in jeopardy. However, by embracing the ideas and practices of the "local" movement, we can begin to develop character by strengthening our communities as places to model authenticity and integrity.

Andrew Jones, English, U of Dubuque

Place, Environment, and Character

The relationship between environmental connectedness and character demonstration and formation is under-examined. Connections to nature can reflect, express, and construct character-building virtues.

Adam Hoffman, Environmental Science, U of Dubuque

Michael Lester Wendt Character Lecture Conference Keynote - 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Character and the Crisis of Home John and Alice Butler Hall

Conference Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Brian J. Walsh, a campus minister at Toronto University and co-author of *Beyond Homelessness: Christian Faith in a Culture of Displacement*, will examine the current culture of displacement and call for a return to moral character deeply rooted in biblical narrative.

Friday, March 2, 2018

Session 5 - 8:30-9:45 a.m.

Panel A - Home, Work, and Play Straatmeyer

Exile, Hero, Homebody: Three Modes of Character

"Exile, Hero, Homebody: Three Modes of Character" explores three dominant relationships between character and place. Do we have to leave home to grow as a person? Do we have to stay? Or must we leave and return?

Paul Spalletta, Political Theory, Brandeis U

The Virtues of Vocation

"The Virtues of Vocation" addresses the relationship between work and place in the novels of Wendell Berry and Thomas Mann. It also attempts to name and explain the virtues required in the achievement of a harmony between the sometimes conflicting obligations of work and place.

Jacob Snyder, Political Theory, Michigan State U

Playhouses

Many of our most serious problems arise when we take things too seriously. Do our homes encourage the development of a capacity for playfulness? Or do they push us into competing postures of melodramatic obsession and apathetic detachment? What kinds of homes help us grow into Wordsworth's "happy warriors," and what kinds of homes do happy warriors build?

Adam Smith, Political Philosophy, U of Dubuque

Panel B - Migration Babka Theatre

Uprooted in Art: How is Home Shaped When Home is a Paradigm of Political Failure

Homes established with the intention of being demolished fill refugee camps. These homes are meant to have no history and, like their residents, no future. They are meant to be forgotten. This paper will examine images by the displaced in France, Greece, Jordan, Mexico, and Syria.

Alan Garfield, Art History, U of Dubuque

Finding the Hjemland: Herbjørn Gausta and the Immigrant American Artist

This paper investigates the process of identity formation among early Norwegian immigrant artists and the role that the hjemland (homeland) played in that process. Herbjørn Gausta, like other immigrant artists, continued to paint images of his Norwegian homeland even as he was embedded in American artistic communities, testifying to the importance of a continued longing for and connection to the hjemland for immigrant historians.

Kate Elliott, Art History, Luther College

Czech Heritage – Bosnian Home

The 19th century immigration of Czech people to a multinational region in Republika Srpska is the central theme of the presentation. It examines the changes to communities and homes several generations after the arrival of families who colonized the region left by the Ottomans; focusing also on language and culture transfer.

Marie Štěpánová, Philology: Foreign Language Teaching, Charles U in Prague

Session 6 - 10:00-11:15 a.m.

Panel A - Flawed Character Straatmeyer

Gaming. The Logic of Corruption

Why does corruption exist? What may explain its resilience in the face of efforts to eradicate it? This analysis focuses on the psychological antecedents of corrupt behavior and develops the hypothesis that an adaptive form of problem-solving behavior called gaming is at the heart of corruption.

Miguel Velasco, Information Systems and Decision Sciences, U of Minnesota

Non-attending author: Paul Johnson, U of Minnesota

Can Narcissism Be Healthy: Character Formation in a Fragmented World

Some researchers have claimed narcissism has reached "epidemic" proportions in contemporary society. In this presentation, narcissism is discussed as a dimensional trait best considered on a spectrum and not exclusively from the standpoint of pathology. Considered in relation to contemporary culture, narcissistic character traits can form the basis for both a cohesive self and a stable social identity. However, in pathological character types, narcissistic traits serve as the basis for identities permeated by hostility, grandiosity, deception, ideological extremism, and insensitivity to others.

Michael Devries, Clinical Psychology, North Park U

Character Flaws: Losing Space, Place, and Face in Max Frisch's Biedermann und die Brandstifter

What was once firmly acknowledged as a satirical response of the Nazi's rise to power, Max Frisch's *Biedermann and the Arsonists*, upon further exploration, remains fluid in its interpretation when analyzed from a spatial perspective. Our paper (re-)examines the protagonist's character in reference to his surroundings (his home) to ultimately establish a new and timely (re-)interpretation of this post-war German text.

Kirsten Kumpf Baele, German, U of Iowa

Heike Kumpf, Architecture, Scott | Edwards Architecture LLP

Panel B - Space, Longing, and Home Babka Theatre

Longing for Eden: Humanity's Shared and Irrecoverable Home as a Regulative Ideal in the Formation of Character

The story of the Garden of Eden offers important guidance on the relationship between home and character. This paper explores the Garden of Eden story through engagement with St. Augustine, Ton Lemaire, and J.R.R. Tolkien.

Aron Reppmann, Philosophy, Trinity Christian College

Transforming "Home": How Josephus and the Gospel of John Shape and Reshape their Defining Spaces

This paper explores how two ancient works, Josephus' War and the Gospel of John, transform the spatialized idea of "Galilee," a place critical to both of them, and how those depictions reflect methodologies that can be instructive for anyone who is seeking to reshape their own defining spaces.

John Vonder Bruegge, Religion (New Testament), Northwestern College

The Face of Place: "Home" in an HGTV World

What is the "face" of your home, and where does it come from? We arrange our home exteriors to look a certain way, inevitably importing unconscious standards for judging what "looks good." This presentation considers the source of such standards: popular culture (homogenous HGTV), or a more authentic representation of the family "self."

David Klopf, Communication, Mount Mercy U

Session 7 - 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Poster Sessions A.Y McDonald Lobby

Sojourners and Homemakers: A Snapshot of Our UD Community

The University of Dubuque is blessed to be a diverse community! We believe this adds value to the college experience for all of us. But not everyone feels "at home" in the same way. Take a look at the demographics of our university family and consider the photos and comments shared by our students.

Phyllis Garfield, Communication, U of Dubuque

James Sizer, Higher Education, U of Dubuque

A Culture of Respect Service-Learning Project

This poster session will report on a service-learning project which promotes the fostering of empathy and offers college students the opportunity to gain practical experience by facilitating and participating in character education.

Amy Baus, Psychology, U of Dubuque

Tabitha Bartleme, Psychology, U of Dubuque

Reducing Social Injustice and Building Compassion Through Simulation

Skilled educators are compelled to find more active ways to help students contextualize justice and compassion since many of them come to college having little or no understanding of the difficulties those living in poverty face daily. Poverty simulation is one way to accomplish this.

Denise Pralle, Nursing Education, Allen College

Flint Water Crisis: Communication Failures and Environmental Injustice

This presentation will focus on the various communication failures that occurred during the Flint Michigan water crisis.

Kahla Rosenfeld, Communication and English, U of Dubuque

Generating Food Justice Through Food Stand Interventions

Like many cities across the world, Dubuque has food deserts, low income areas that do not have access to fresh produce within one mile. This poster session analyzes the strategic implementation of food stands to improve food justice in Dubuque's food deserts.

Allison Mitchell, Sociology, U of Dubuque

Effective Community Policing: Justice in Midwestern Law Enforcement

In the Midwest and across the nation, a growing mistrust of police authority has created a controversial and painful divide between communities and their protectors, leaving many citizens and officers at a loss for how to repair these relationships. This research looks to identify best practices for proactive community policing.

Marissa Joers, Criminal Justice, U of Dubuque

Character and Community: Improving Food Security in Dubuque

Part of building character is recognizing that each person has a right to basic necessities. Every person deserves the food to access nutritional foods. Volunteers at St. Stephens Food Bank in Dubuque, as well as the UD food pantry, use a rights-based approach to improving food security in Dubuque.

Andrea Huston, Communication, U of Dubuque

Session 8 - 1:45-2:45 p.m.

Closing Conversation Babka Theatre

Join us in a conversation with Dr. Brian J. Walsh, our conference keynote and scholar-in-residence, as we review the conference and make new connections to take with us. With moderator Dr. Christine Darr, assistant professor of Christian ethics at the University of Dubuque.

Film Screening and Discussion - 7:00-9:30p.m.

Places in the Heart John and Alice Butler Hall

If you're still in Dubuque on Friday evening, you're invited to a screening of *Places in the Heart*, directed by Robert Benton and starring Sally Field. Stay after for a discussion about the movie's ties to character and place, led by faculty at the University of Dubuque and the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.

