

UCLA Friends of English

Southland Conference

"Performativity is construed as that power of discourse to produce effects through reiteration."

- Judith Butler

"Same same, but different, but still same."

- James Franco

CRITICAL RECURSIONS

What incites the resurgence of an old -ism under the banner of the "new": new criticism, new historicism, new formalism, new materialism, new secularism, new Americanism? The recurrence of the "new" is itself an academic tradition of some standing, yet the relationship between the -ism and its newness is not just the announcement of a break, but a negotiation between return and departure, opposition and progression. Taken as a whole, critical tendencies and preoccupations begin to look less like radical ruptures and more like reinvestments in persistent questions.

This year's Friends of English Southland Graduate Conference welcomes investigation into literary and critical recursion. What are the roles of return, repetition, revision, and iteration in our discipline and its objects of inquiry? What might recursion produce, reveal, or negate? We ask participants to consider literature's own repetitions and reiterations alongside our discipline's recurrent concerns.

Southland invite proposals that consider these concepts as they might appear in a diverse array of fields, including but not limited to:

- **book history and reading practices**
- **formalism and poetics**
- **ecocriticism**
- **critical race studies**
- **history and philosophy of science**
- **digital humanities**
- **critical theory**
- **visual culture and media studies**
- **disability studies**
- **"new" critical turns**
- **gender, queer, and sexuality studies**
- **pedagogy and education**

Please send a 200-300 word abstract or full panel proposal to :

**criticalrecursions
@gmail.com**

by **March 17**

with your name, contact information, department, and institution. Applicants will be notified by April 3rd. Please direct further questions to the same address.

June 9-10, 2017
criticalrecursions.com