

Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 2.15pm

Online Lecture (MLU CONF)

'BARREN, SILENT, GODLESS' THE APOCALYPSE AND THE HUMAN CONDITION IN CORMAC MCCARTHY'S *THE ROAD*.



When studying The Road – both Cormac McCarthy's novel as well as John Hillcoat's film adaptation – we can look toward a possible future with our faces set firmly to the past. We can ponder a world that mankind has taken for granted through its flawed logic of anthropocentric dualism (Greg Garrard, 2004). We can take an ecofeminist perspective and interpret its account of the death of the woman who doesn't wish to be among "the walking dead" (2006:57). And we can consider a universal failure to concern ourselves with environmental justice – a failure which has, in the words of Tom Gifford, "turned the world to ash," and spun a tale of a "desperate reductive interdependency between father and son to the exclusion of all other possible concerns" (2013:17). As Eli, the quasi-prophet the Man and the Boy come across observes: "I always knew this was coming, this or something like it. There were warnings."

GUEST LECTURE

Dr Matthew Carter

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Find more information on the Muhlenberg Center Website.