

12th Triennial Conference of the
Kenneth Burke Society

Hosts

Kenneth Burke Society
Parlor Press
Clemson University



PROGRAM

Kenneth Burke,
the Humanities, and Agency
in the Era of AI

Virtual Conference & Film Festival
May 22–25, 2025

kbjournal.org/kbs2025program

Free to Attend

Registration Not Required



Gather Space



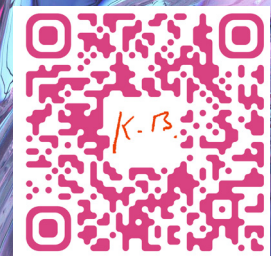
KB Commonplace
Padlet



ZOOM 1
(Main + #1 Sessions)



ZOOM 2
(#1 Sessions)



New Art City
Virtual Burkeian
Parlor

Program Schedule

12th Triennial Conference of the Kenneth Burke Society 2025

“Kenneth Burke, the Humanities, and Agency in the Era of AI”

Virtual Conference and Film Festival

All times are Eastern

Gather Landing Page: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-gather>

New Art City Virtual Burkeian Parlor: <https://bit.ly/virtual-kb-parlor>

Questions During the Conference?

Quick or Emergency Questions Text David Blakesley at 765-409-2649

General David Blakesley: david.blakesley@gmail.com

Program Taylor Wyatt: tjwyatt@g.clemson.edu

Online and Tech Support Andrew Okai: aokai@g.clemson.edu

Thursday, May 22, 2025

Welcome Reception (6:00 pm – 7:00 pm)

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-counter>

- Opening remarks from KBS President
- Introduction to conference theme and virtual spaces
- Introduction of presenters and panels
- New Art City tour information: [New Art City Info Hub](#) (overview)

New Art City Guided Tours (7:30 pm – 8:30 pm)

New Art City Landing Page: <https://bit.ly/virtual-kb-parlor>

Hosted and Created by Eddie Lohmeyer, Clemson University

Jack Selzer, Penn State University,
“Andover: Kenneth Burke’s Place”

Gabrielle Wilkosz, Clemson University
“Rotten with Perfection”

David Blakesley, Clemson University
“The Making of *The Wordman*”

Friday, May 23

New Art City and Gather Spaces Open (8 am until Sunday at noon)

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New Art City Virtual Burkeian Parlor: <https://bit.ly/virtual-kb-parlor>

All times are Eastern

Friday, May 23

A: Concurrent Sessions (Friday, 8:30 – 9:45 am)

Panel A1: Burke, AI, and Rhetoric

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-counter>

Jainab Tabassum Banu, North Dakota State University

“Whose Voice Is This? Agency, AI, and the Burkean Writer-Self”

Taylor J. Wyatt, Clemson University

“Burke, Aristotle, and Hexis in a World of Generative AI”

Anastasia Pestova, George Mason University

“Rhetorical Understanding in the Age of AI: A Burkean Framework”

Panel A2: Burke and Digital Contexts

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-statement>

Emily Crum, Clemson University

“The Man Behind the Curtain: A Humanistic Inquiry Into GenAI as Terministic Screen”

Melissa McCarter

“Toward an Electric Ethnography: ‘AI-to-Hum’ Ethics of Care Rooted in Burke’s Rhetorics and Ulmer’s Electracy”

Amy Lea Clemons, Ohio State University

“Slow down, TRACI’: Rhetorics of Perfection in GenAI’s Own Pentad”

B: Concurrent Sessions (Friday, 10:15 – 11:30 am)

Panel B1: Burke and Identity

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-counter>

Chair: Andrew Okai, Clemson University

Galen R. Faison, Clemson University

“Taking on the Skin of the Other—Exploring Afrofuturism, Piety and Perspective through Second-Person Narrative”

Annie Laurie (Cobalt) Nichols, Georgia Southwestern State University

“Identifying with AI: Moving Beyond the Other”

Camille Lewis, Furman University

“In the Good Old Days (When Times Were Bad): Dolly Parton as Burkean Comedian”

Panel B.2 Cooking Through Burke's Kitchen: Identity, Technology, and Regional Rhetoric in Contemporary Food Culture

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-statement>

Chair: Felix T. Nyikwagh, Clemson University

Drew Stowe, Anderson University

"From Kitchen to (Terministic) Screen: A Burkean Analysis of 'Celebrity' Chefs, Culinary Literacy, and Digital Age Implications"

Josh Herron, Clemson University

"Generative AI and Online Food Cultures"

C: Concurrent Session (Friday, Noon – 1:15 pm)

Panel C1: Counter-Statement's Centennial

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-counter>

Chair: David Blakesley

This session will start in Zoom and continue to Gather: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-gather>

Jarron Slater, Brigham Young University

"Kenneth Burke and 'The Constants of Humanity': Preparing for Counter-Statement's Centennial in the Age of AI"

Discussion and development of an edited volume celebrating the 2031 centennial of Counter-Statement to be published by Parlor Press. The CFP will be released during this session. Attendees can prepare by reading Counter-Statement, or at minimum, especially "Preface to the First Edition," "Preface to the Second Edition," "Psychology and Form," "The Poetic Process," "The Status of Art," "Program," "Lexicon Rhetoricae," "Applications of the Terminology," "Curriculum Criticum," and "Addendum."

D: Concurrent Sessions (Friday, 1:45 pm – 3:00 pm)

Panel D1: Burke, Pedagogy, and Scholarship

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-counter>

Lucy Manley, Clemson University

"Talking to Machines: Burke & Dewey in the Classroom"

Amanda Adam, University of Ghent

"Engaging Students beyond Prompts: An Analysis of Aesthetic Pieties in Student Creations"

Chase Redd, University of Maryland

"An Incongruous Perspective: Reading Burke as a Graduate Student in the Era of AI"

Friday, May 23

Panel D2: Burke, Media, and Agency

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-statement>

Chair: David Williams, Clemson University

Mary McDermott, Clemson University and DeSales University

“Eno(s), Burke’s Rhetorical Theory and What Generative Filmmaking Portends for the Future of Cinematic Storytelling”

Byron Hawk, University of South Carolina

“Letting Go of ‘Agentness’ through Indigenous Listening”

KB Film Festival (Friday, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm)

Film Festival, Music, Games

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-counter>

Moderator: David Williams, Clemson University

Tyler Herrman, Clemson University

“Write Me” (Film Script)

Stephen Paur

“Definition of Machine” (Film)

Jana Liberato, James Madison University

“Reviving the Author: An Interdisciplinary Excavation of Rhetorical Ethics”) (Game; 3D XR experience)

Joel Overall, Belmont University

“‘Sarrusophone Surrounded’: A Kenneth Burke Musical Premiere”

Open Parlor in Gather (Friday, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm)

Gather Landing Page: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-gather>

- Join the Parlor!
- Watch movies!
- Kenneth Burke Jeopardy and Other Games

Saturday, May 24

New Art City and Gather Spaces Open (8 am until Sunday at noon)

Gather Landing Page: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-gather>

New Art City Virtual Burkeian Parlor: <https://bit.ly/virtual-kb-parlor>

All times are Eastern

E: Concurrent Sessions (Saturday, 8:30 – 9:45 am)

Panel E1: Burke, Health, and Ethics

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-counter>

Chair: David Blakesley, Clemson University

Rochelle Gregory, University of North Texas, Ben Sword, Tarleton University, and Marc Azard, Collin College

“Revisiting Terri Schiavo’s Death Twenty Years Later: Kenneth Burke’s Psychology of Form and the Emerging Influence of AI”

Kris Rutten, University of Ghent

“Attitudes Toward Mental Health: Cultural Narratives as Equipment for Living”

Heather Hartness, Northwest Florida State College

“From Libbie to Alexa: The Gendered History of Care and Knowledge Work”

F: Concurrent Sessions (Saturday, 10:15 – 11:30 am)

Panel F1: Burke, Transformation, and Identification

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-counter>

Chair: Felix T. Nyikwagh, Clemson University

David Cratis Williams, Florida State University

“Special Rhetorical Operation: Putin’s Deployment of Redefinitional Tropes in Ukraine”

S. Andrew Stowe, Anderson University

“From Hero to Anti-Hero: A Burkean Analysis of Lance Armstrong’s Identity Performance and Contemporary Strongman Rhetoric”

Panel F2: Secular and Nonsecular Pieties and Affordances

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-statement>

Chair: Christian Taylor, Clemson University

William Schraufnagel, University of Illinois Chicago

“Faith and Order in Walter Pater and Kenneth Burke”

Shiva Mainaly, University of Memphis

“The Rhetoric of Identification in the Age of AI: Affordances, Alpha Persuasion, and the Burkean Paradigm”

G: Concurrent Sessions (Saturday, Noon – 1:15 pm)

Panel G1: Burke and Technology

Saturday, May 24

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-counter>

Chair: Victoria Banks, Clemson University

Houman Mehrabian, University Canada West, Vancouver

“Quantities of Hate: Kenneth Burke, Mechanisms of Amplification, and Digital Technology”

Frederick Fre-Ere Sunkpal, Clemson University

“Combat Robots as Symbolic Agents: A Burkean Analysis of Anthropomorphism in Human-Robot Interaction”

Lane Riggs, Clemson University

“Criminal Drones: Surveillance Technologies at the U.S.-Mexico Border”

Panel G2: Flash Talks on AI, Dreams, and Burkean Theory

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-statement>

Chair: Dave Rochlin, Clemson University and UC Berkeley

John Falter, Clemson University

“The Tower: Centrality, Persuasion, and AI”

Taylor Henry, Clemson University

“Critical AI: Generating Dreams as Liminal Spaces”

Christian Taylor, Clemson University

“Spinning a Yarn: Using Twine to Tie Burkean Theory Together for Students”

H: Concurrent Sessions (Saturday, 1:45 pm – 3:00 pm)

Panel H1: “An Art of Living”: Burkean Approaches to Storytelling and Censure

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-counter>

Chair: Victoria Banks, Clemson University

Joshua Smith, University of Nevada, Reno

“A Dramatistic Approach to Alabama Story”

Zach Kemp, University of Nevada, Reno

“Don’t Say CRT: Divisive Concept Laws as Enthymemes”

Jim Webber, University of Nevada, Reno

“Can Public Moral Argument be Comic?: Or, Walter Fisher’s Missed Encounter with Burke”

Cody Hunter, University of Nevada, Reno

“Acting out to Remake our Habits: Using Naked Lunch to Elaborate the Ambiguity of LLM Toxicity”

Panel H.2: AI, Golems, and the Undead

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-statement>

Chair: Christian Taylor, Clemson University

Steven B. Katz, Clemson University

“What If ‘Word Man’ Were Literal? Golems, AI, and Kenneth Burke in the Diaspora of Western Philosophy”

Jared Jameson, Clemson University

“Kenneth Burke’s Meta-Biological Artifice: How the Lives of the Non-Living Have Now Forever Changed Humanity”

The Wordman Film Discussion (Saturday, 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm)

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-counter>

David Blakesley, Clemson University

David Williams, Clemson University

Learn about this documentary film, assets and curation, and the film treatment. Share your ideas!

New Art City Guided Tours (Saturday, 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm)

Hosted by Eddie Lohmeyer, Clemson University

Jack Selzer, Penn State University

“Andover”

Gabrielle Wilkosz, Clemson University

“Rotten with Perfection”

David Blakesley, Clemson University

“The Making of *The Wordman*”

KBS Celebration (Saturday, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm)

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-counter>

Jack Selzer, Penn State University

“Andover: Kenneth Burke’s Place”

Join us for this guided tour of “The Lands of Kenneth Burke” (“The Deed”

Plus surprises!

Open Parlor in Gather (Saturday, 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm)

Gather Landing Page: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-gather>

- Parlor Games
- *KB: A Conversation* Screening (8:15pm start time).
Watch the film as a group with live discussion!

Sunday, May 25

Sunday, May 25

New Art City and Gather Spaces are open from 10:00 am to noon

Gather Landing Page: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-gather>

New Art City Virtual Burkeian Parlor: <https://bit.ly/virtual-kb-parlor>

All times are Eastern

Kenneth Burke Society General Meeting (Sunday, 10:00 am – 11:00 am)

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-counter>

All current members of the Kenneth Burke Society are encouraged to attend and be ready to nominate and approve officers.

Kenneth Burke Society Officers Meeting (Sunday, 11:00 am – Noon)

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-zoom-counter>

Post-Conference Festival and Pool Party, hosted by Parlor Press

2:00 pm – until the hour grows late and we must depart.

In-person

For more details and to RSVP, see the Google form: <https://bit.ly/kbs2025-festival>

Directions to David and Julie Blakesley's House/Parlor Press (20 minutes east of Clemson)

The address is:

3015 Brackenberry Drive

Anderson, SC 29621

765-409-2649 (c)

Google Maps: <http://goo.gl/cM3Rn>

Parking: along Brackenberry Drive, going up the hill. The driveway is large, so there are some spaces there, too.