RMMLA 2012: Writing Trauma Survival: Learning from violence and its after effects in literature

Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association, 2012
Session Chair: Kim Forham – kim.fordham@ualberta.ca

This session will focus on what we can learn about trauma, resiliency and the operations of social violence in literary texts (broadly defined), written by authors who self-identify as women, since 1960. There is considerable evidence, both in the cultural record and in terms of measurable social effects, to demonstrate that ideological, socio-cultural and systemic forms of violence work together to reinforce intersectional gender discipline. This session, therefore, invites scholars exploring the complex issues inherent in gender-based acts of violence and their aftermath to engage with models of human fragility and capacities for resiliency and repair, as presented through selected texts.

Papers that address the following themes are of particular interest, though submissions on other related topics are also welcome:

- The role of creativity in healing from violence
- Disruptive powers of violence and aggression
- Resolutions to violence
- Intersections of gender and violence
- Politics of violence, including poverty and gender
- Survival and coping strategies
- Complex consequences for targets and those around them
- Effects, i.e., addictions, eating disorders, loss of self, dislocation
- Embodied acts of violence against the self: self-disgust, self-mutilation
- Considering the perpetrators / reading the monsters
- Why and how do those targeted by violence become perpetrators?
- Power relations

The types of violence can include, but are not limited to: childhood abuse, including sexual abuse; domestic violence; insidious forms of violence; socio-political violence; cultural genocide. Please submit a 250-300 word abstract outlining your proposal for the panel.

**Deadline: March 15, 2012**