



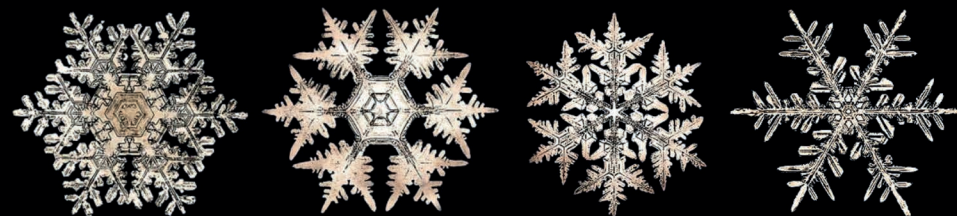
In *Snow in America* (1997), Bernard Mergen states that snow has played a major role in the construction of a certain political, cultural, and artistic identity in the United States. As a climatic phenomenon, a protean symbol, an aesthetic motif, snow has modeled Americans' relationships to their history, their territory, more-than-human worlds, and with their cultural expressions.

While many Indigenous nations' life ways have been shaped by their capacity to adapt to harsh climates, the colonial conquest of icy territories evinces the attempt to dominate radically different spaces than Europe and to master the impermanence of this element. Nonetheless, snow jeopardizes any desire to control the world both physically and intellectually. For Hartmut Rosa, snow "is literally the pure form in which unavailability manifests itself." Just as snow slips and melts between the fingers of whoever wants to seize it, it will thwart previsions, reshape environments, impose new rhythms, and change perceptions. It can thus lead to intellectual wanderings and recreative or contemplative moments that enable artists to explore new literary, pictorial, and photographic spaces, opening to a new "distribution of the sensible" (Jacques Rancière) and revealing unsuspected political and cultural implications.

In the wake of Mergen's work, this first one-day conference in a cycle of two will aim to delineate the cultural history and geography of snow as they take shape in American literary and artistic works from the eighteenth century to our day. From national boundaries to a wider North American space, if not more remote world projections, we will focus on the representations and the roles of snow in the making of American territory, of the movements and relationships between its human and other inhabitants, and in the development of cultural forms belonging to these environments.

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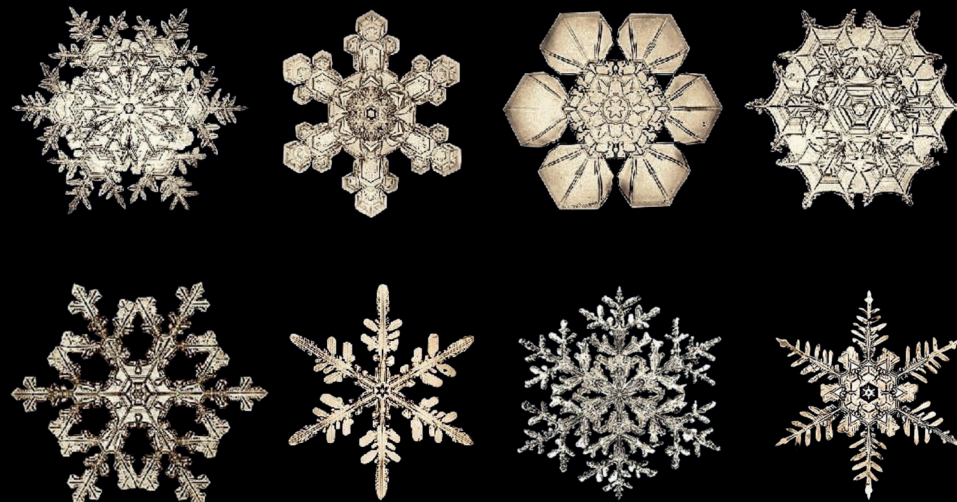


## JOURNÉE D'ÉTUDES

Organisation :

Claire Cazajous-Augé (CAS, UT2J) et Aurore Clavier (LARCA-CNRS, Paris Cité)

# American Snows Neiges américaines

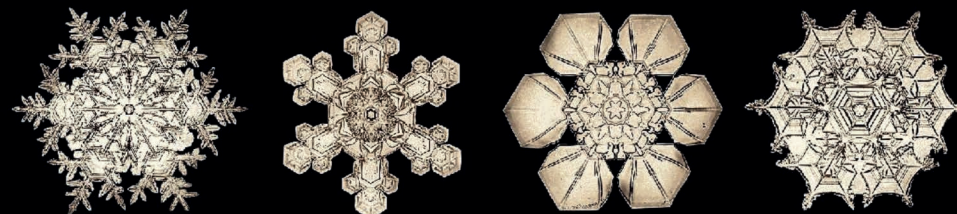
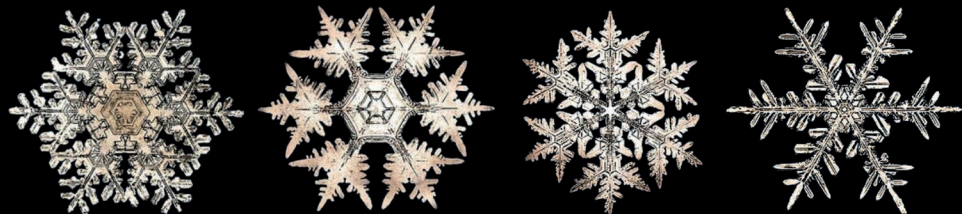


Vendredi **15 novembre** 2024

UNIVERSITÉ TOULOUSE - JEAN JAURÈS

Maison de la Recherche, Amphi F417

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9h Accueil et présentation de la journée

9h15 Conférence Plénière

Discutante : **Nathalie Cochoy** (Université Toulouse - Jean Jaurès)

**Isabelle Gapp** (University of Aberdeen) :  
*Circumpolar Landscapes in North American Painting*

10h30 Pause café

11h “Northern Snows”

Discutante : **Aurélie Guillain** (Université Toulouse - Jean Jaurès)

**Daniel Abdalla** (Liverpool University) et **Michele Mendelssohn** (Oxford University) :  
*Polar Children's Writing by Elizabeth Robins, Josephine Diebitsch Peary  
and Marie Ahnighito Peary*

**Mathilde Louette** (Université Paris Cité) :  
*Apocalyptic Snows: Metaphors of Whiteness in the Works of Louise Erdrich  
and Waubgeshig Rice*

12h30 Pause déjeuner

# American Snows Neiges américaines

14h “Remembering Snow”

Discutante : **Marie Bouchet** (Université Toulouse - Jean Jaurès)

**Yves Figueiredo** (Université Paris Cité) :  
*Snow-flowers and Mighty Chasms: Interpreting the Sierra Nevada Landscape, 1860-1890*

**Frédérique Spill** (Université d'Amiens) :  
*Jim Harrison, Snow and Memory*

15h15 Pause café

15h30 “Vanishing Snow”

Discutant : **René Alladaye** (Université Toulouse - Jean Jaurès)

**Françoise Palleau-Papin** (Université Paris 13) :  
*Snow, Ice, Mist: “Vanishing” in W. S. Merwin's Poetry*

**Jocelyn Dupont** (Université de Perpignan) :  
*The End of Snow 2.0: Alexander Weinstein's “Fall Line”*

