

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL BULLETIN
ANNOUNCEMENT**

Florida International University
University Graduate School

Master's Thesis Defense

Abstract

Monster Zero

By

James Snodgrass

MONSTER ZERO is a collection of poems that explores the connection between the author's own experience growing up as a military dependent in Japan, the Hiroshima bombing, and the pop culture figure of Godzilla, the giant, radioactive lizard made famous in the 1954 movies of the same name. That Godzilla can speak to the cultural identity of both Japan and the US adds to the power of Godzilla as a metaphor. The book splits into three sections, the first consists of lyrical meditations in which Godzilla is the sole theme, character and voice; it attempts to yoke Godzilla as a metaphor for nuclear annihilation with human desire and weakness. The second section is comprised of narrative confessions in which the author compares himself with Godzilla as displaced members of American and Japanese culture. The book ends with a melding of Godzilla and the author's emotions and subconscious as they come to terms with the paradoxical implications of their lives.

Date: February 27, 2002

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: AC1 374A, Biscayne Bay Campus

Department: Creative Writing

Major Professor: Denise Duhamel