

“I just flew in from Miami Beach, and, boy, are my arms tired.”

The Society for the Study of American Travel Writing and the American Humor Studies Association seek abstracts for a collaborative session on “Humor and Travel” for the American Literature Association annual conference in Boston, Massachusetts, May 25-28, 2017.

We welcome papers focusing on individual authors/travelers from any time period as well as conceptual or theoretical discussions that consider the intersections between travel experiences and expressions of humor.

Proposals might consider the following questions:

How does humor serve to define the inevitable incongruities of travel experiences?

How do the often destabilizing effects of travel elicit humor as a response?

How are travel or tourism targets of humor?

What are the rhetorical effects of humor on telling the travel story?

Please email a brief CV and 300-word abstract (and please indicate any audio/visual needs) by 15 December 2016 to Jeffrey Melton (jmelton@ua.edu) or Susan Roberson (susan.roberson@tamuk.edu) using “Humor and Travel” as the subject line. Scholars of American humor, American travel writing and practicing travel writers are particularly encouraged to submit proposals.