

CALL FOR PAPERS

Society for the Study of Southern Literature Sessions (Two Sessions)

28th Annual American Literature Association Conference

May 25-28, 2017, Boston, MA

Deadline: January 16, 2017

Session One:

Southern Literature of Reconstruction

The Society for the Study of Southern Literature invites paper proposals for ALA 2017 related to southern literature and literary history dealing with the Reconstruction period in the South. We will conceive of this period broadly, welcoming considerations of the time span from the end of the war to the end of the century. The South and its literature are too often imagined only in terms of their antebellum or twentieth-century iterations. Largely lost to scholarly consideration has been the phantom period following the war, during which notions of southern identity and futurity were very much in flux. This panel seeks to capitalize on the new and exciting work currently afoot to remedy this dearth. Analyses of works *from* or *about* the Reconstruction period are equally acceptable; the session will be divided and organized topically based on response. We seek presenters engaged in exploring southern literature as expression and representation of region that does strategic work in creating national imaginaries, an effort that is especially crucial in the tumultuous and uncertain wake of the Civil War in the defeated territory.

Session Two:

Southern Drink

Examinations of the South through its foodways have become something of a sensation in recent years, so much so that they now are inspiring anti-foodways scholarship in reaction. Regardless of one's attitude toward the topic, it is obvious that study of consumables has ignited national attention to the region. As a related exploration, what about southern drink? The Society for the Study of Southern Literature invites paper proposals for ALA 2017 related to southern literature and literary history dealing with the "liquid literature of the South." Whether it be the ubiquitous moonshine still, the region-defining sweet tea, the ongoing cola wars, or the much-ballyhooed mint julep, what role does beverage culture play in southern life and identity? What about the connection between rum and the slave trade, milk punch versus egg nog, the rise of the southern cocktail, Native American or African contributions to regional drink, or many other instances of the region's fluidity? We seek presenters ready to raise questions—as well as a cup, glass, chalice, horn, flute, or goblet— about/to liquid refreshment and its intersection with southern literature and culture.

Send proposals—including paper title, 250-word abstract, and presenter affiliation—to Todd Hagstette (toddh@usca.edu) by January 16, 2017.