

**William Faulkner Society  
ALA 2017**

**Reading Faulkner in the Age of Trump(ism)**

The past year and a half has seen the rise of the anti-Progressive, anti-establishment, and pro-authoritarian movement embodied in the person of Donald J. Trump. Many have speculated that even if Trump had not won the presidential election, the movement known as “Trumpism” would continue to thrive, but with his election this movement is now fixed in history as deeply connected with its champion. Although the duration and full impact of this movement remain to be seen, it seems appropriate and important to begin discussing the questions the age of Trump brings and what exactly is the relation of literature and literary criticism to it. This panel invites papers that consider the role of Faulkner scholarship in the age of Trump(ism). Does Faulkner’s writing shed light on the dynamics of the current political and cultural moment? How does this moment reorient or reintroduce critical lines of inquiry? Are the responsibilities, techniques, and/or positions of Faulkner scholars altered? Please send 250-word abstracts for papers that address these and other questions to Ted Atkinson ([wfsociety@gmail.com](mailto:wfsociety@gmail.com)). Deadline: January 9, 2017.

**Faulkner and the Position of the Public Intellectual**

The trajectory of William Faulkner’s career involved a post-Nobel rise in reputation that secured his status as a public intellectual. Faulkner’s statements on racial injustice, civil rights, totalitarianism, and the threat of nuclear war, among other issues, evinced a willingness to spend some of the cultural capital he had earned from literary achievements on meaningful engagement with the pressing issues of the day and the broader concerns of human inquiry. What might we gain from revisiting or revising what it means to think of Faulkner as a public intellectual? How does the Faulkner on the page speak to the figure who appeared on the public stage—or vice versa? How do we situate Faulkner in relation to other figures who have assumed the mantle of public intellectual? What can Faulkner’s experience tell us now as intellectuals, especially in the humanities, face diminished influence in the public sphere? The plan for this session is to consider these and other related questions in the format of a roundtable discussion. Please send 250-word proposals for ten-minute presentations to Ted Atkinson ([wfsociety@gmail.com](mailto:wfsociety@gmail.com)). Deadline: January 9, 2017.