

**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**Carson McCullers Society**  
American Literature Association  
28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
May 25-28, 2017 ~ Boston, MA  
The Westin Copley Center

The Carson McCullers Society welcomes abstracts for a panel on tolerance in Carson McCullers' life and work. The panel call is broad; however, papers that place McCullers' treatment of issues of diversity, plurality, non-conformity, and difference into dialogue with the contemporary, post-Trump moment or within the shifting currents of the early Civil Rights, pre-Stonewall, and pre-Women's Liberation Movements are especially encouraged. For instance, panelists might discuss the political bandying about of the phrase "the leftover people" in the most recent presidential election in terms of its multiplex meanings in McCullers' life and work and in media parlance today. McCullers' handling of racial anger and white male political rage through the characters of Dr. Copeland and the itinerant drifter Jake Blount in *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* might bear interesting comparisons to political, social, and labor tensions of her age, as well as our own. Novelist Sarah Schulman's claim in a recent *New Yorker* article that "Carson McCullers was able to inhabit any kind of person" with "ease" (qtd. Richard Wright) because she possessed a "transgender . . . identity that history had not yet discovered" might also be fruitful to tease out in relation to issues of sexual, racial, gender, and/or class recognition, tolerance, and intolerance in McCullers' fiction, drama, and poetry. Paper proposals along these and any topics in McCullers' life and work are welcome.

Interested scholars can email a 250-300 word abstract and a short bio to Alison Graham-Bertolini and Isadora J. Wagner, panel organizers, at [alison.bertolini@ndsu.edu](mailto:alison.bertolini@ndsu.edu) and [iwagner@go.olemiss.edu](mailto:iwagner@go.olemiss.edu) by January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

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The American Literature Association's 28th annual conference will meet at the Westin Copley Place in Boston on May 25-28, 2017 (Thursday through Sunday of Memorial Day weekend). The deadline for proposals is January 30, 2017. For further information, please consult the ALA website at [www.americanliterature.org](http://www.americanliterature.org) or contact the conference director, Professor Olivia Carr Edenfield at [carr@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:carr@georgiasouthern.edu) with specific questions.