

Call for Papers: Walt Whitman and the Press

Whitman Studies Association panel at the 29th annual conference of the American Literature Association (2018).

From Walt Whitman's early work as a journalist to (self)-representations of his life and writings in contemporary periodicals, America's poet had and continues to have a complex relationship to the press. Whitman relied on and actively employed the press to bolster his reputation and celebrity status, used his position as editor and journalist to forward his political views, boldly voiced his ideas about the importance of a free press while also occasionally screaming "fake news," and feuded quite publicly with newspaper editors, politicians, and administrators. This panel will be dedicated to examining any aspect of Whitman's relationship to or portrayal within the press.

We are especially interested in papers that discuss: (1) Whitman's ideas about the press and its role in the American Republic; (2) Whitman's relationship with specific periodicals and journalists; (3) Whitman's experimentation with journalistic genres and boundaries; (4) Visual or written portrayals of Whitman in the press (past or present), including those by Whitman himself; (5) The relationship between Whitman's journalism and his poetry and prose; (6) The circulation of works by or about Whitman in the national and international press.

Please send one-page abstracts electronically no later than January 12, 2018 to the panel chairs Stephanie M. Blalock (stephanie-blalock@uiowa.edu) and Stefan Schöberlein (stefan-schoeberlein@uiowa.edu).

The conference will take place from May 24-27, 2018, at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco on the Embarcadero in San Francisco, CA. For more information about the 2018 ALA conference, see the conference [website](#).