

CALL FOR PAPERS: FOR A PANEL at the American Literature Association,  
San Francisco, CA, May 24-27, 2018

**Witches and “Nasty Women”: Unruly Tongues in American Literature**

This panel seeks papers which explore the concept of the “nasty woman” and/or the “witch” as a proto-feminist in American literature. As Martha Cutter has argued, “an unruly tongue” becomes symbolic of an “unruly identity that challenges a woman’s place within [...] stereotypes of femininity and structures of patriarchal authority.” Nowhere does this seem more obvious than in the current socio-political environment. And yet, for centuries in the United States, women have been punished, vilified, or marginalized for being outspoken. How do these types of women—from witches in the 17<sup>th</sup> century to last year’s “nasty woman” type—appear in our national literature? How do authors from the period of colonization to the present day illustrate “unruly women”—women who in Cutter’s words, might be said to evolve their own discourse to counteract the patriarchy?

Please send 250 word abstracts along with a short CV (1-2 pages) to Elif Armbruster at [earmbruster@suffolk.edu](mailto:earmbruster@suffolk.edu), by December 30, 2017. Please be sure to note ALA paper proposal in your subject line. Please feel free to circulate!