

Ralph Ellison Society – ALA 2018:

PANEL: Ralph Ellison and the Ethics of Writing. Writing for Ralph Ellison was a question of deep and careful thinking about craft and form. For Ellison, such considerations were inseparable from the ethical demands of writing and of literature. In this panel, we seek to interrogate what writing meant to Ellison as an ethical vocation, and how writing was a moral response to the complexity of America. Papers should be 15-18 minutes in length.

ROUND TABLE: Ralph Ellison and the Contemporary American Moment. We invite presentations that look at America in the 21st century through the lens of Ralph Ellison's thought and writing. Ellison was one of the great commentators on what Henry James termed "the American Scene." He famously pronounced that he was "too vindictively American" ever to embrace the position of the exile. In this round table, we seek a wide-ranging and provocative discussion about contemporary American culture, historiography, politics, and literature, from the perspectives offered to us by Ellison's work. Possible approaches might range from what Ellison might think of Ta-Nehisi Coates to Ellison and incarceration to Ellison and globalism . . . there are many possibilities. Presentations should be 5-7 minutes in length.

Please submit all proposals to Marc Conner, secretary/treasurer of the Ralph Ellison Society, at connerm@wlu.edu by **January 15 2018**.