

The Society for the Study of American Travel Writing (SSATW) hopes to host 2 panels at ALA 2018 on the paired themes of **Travel Writing and Travel Bans** and **Travel Writing in Cases of Political Asylum and Refuge**. Descriptions below.

### **Travel Writing and Travel Bans**

In June of 2015, United States President Donald J. Trump promised to build a border wall to impede the passage of Latin American individuals into the United States. This pledge propelled his unlikely campaign. On September 24, 2017, President Trump signed a third attempt at an executive order that would institute a temporary travel ban on individuals from Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, and Chad. These are only two recent instances of political bans and obstacles imposed on travel.

The Society for the Study of American Travel Writing invites paper proposals on the theme of travel bans, restrictions, and obstacles for the American Literature Association's 2018 conference. Questions for consideration may include: What sorts of bans—legal, economic, customary—create structural blockades on travel practices? How do bans discriminate? How do they curtail the movement of people, and what are the broader implications when people are prevented from traveling? How do bans compel people to change their plans, to go other places, to speed up, or to slow down their movement? How do travel bans block opportunities that can be indexed by all sides of segregated communities? How do bans displace and separate families and erode human bonds across distance? How do bans influence complex, intersectional, and divided senses of identity? In what ways are travelers endangered by bans, particularly when they find themselves in conditions of forced displacement? Other lines of inquiry on this theme as well as papers examining texts from all genre representing travel, including non-fiction, fiction, poetry, film, and web-writing are welcome. This CFP is meant to resonate with the SSATW's other call for ALA 2018, Travel Writing in Cases of Political Asylum and Refuge.

Submit proposals to Andrew Vogel ([vogel@kutztown.edu](mailto:vogel@kutztown.edu)) by January 19, 2018

The American Literature Association's 12th annual conference will meet at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco on May 24-27, 2018 (Thursday through Sunday of Memorial Day weekend). The deadline for proposals is January 30, 2018. For further information, please consult the ALA website at [www.americanliterature.org](http://www.americanliterature.org) or contact the conference director, Professor Leslie Petty, at [pettyL@rhodes.edu](mailto:pettyL@rhodes.edu) or the Executive Director of the ALA, Professor Alfred Bendixen of Princeton University, at [ab23@princeton.edu](mailto:ab23@princeton.edu) with specific questions.

### **Travel Writing in Cases of Political Asylum and Refuge**

After 6 years of terrible violence, the war in Syria grinds on, and after surviving harrowing journeys, millions of people remain displaced, trapped in camps, between “borders,” tangled in bureaucratic processes. Meanwhile, anti-refugee campaigns have gained traction in certain wealthy nations best suited to mitigate the suffering of innocent people. Though a refugee crisis of this magnitude and duration is rare on the world stage, such catastrophes are not new and, today, not limited to Syria.

The Society for the Study of American Travel Writing invites paper proposals on the theme of escape, asylum, and refuge in travel writing for the American Literature Association’s 2018 conference. Questions for consideration may include: What must refugees leave behind? How do refugees become trapped on frontiers, both territorial and political, between places, and while trapped, how do they make do while on the move and within camps where provisions may be wanting? What effects do such instances of liminality or deterritorialization have on people’s identity and sense of culture? How do refugee migrants cope with the uncertainties of their complex displacements? What traumas may they experience, both in evacuation and in migration, and what might be the lasting consequences of such traumas, particularly on youth? What misconceptions and prejudices might refugees face at various stages along the way of their migrations? In what ways do people who are in positions to help let refugees down, and what are the ethical, moral, and political ramifications of such failures? Other lines of inquiry on this theme as well as papers examining texts from all genre representing travel, including non-fiction, fiction, poetry, film, and web-writing are welcome. This CFP is meant to resonate with the SSATW’s other call for ALA 2018, Travel Writing and Travel Bans.

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