

# **Kurt Vonnegut Society CFP**

## **ALA 2018**

The [American Literature Association](#) Conference will take place in San Francisco from May 24-27, 2018. The Vonnegut Society is organizing two panels.

Those interested in presenting should send 250-word abstracts for either panel to [vonnegutsociety@gmail.com](mailto:vonnegutsociety@gmail.com) by **January 20**. Please indicate to which panel you are submitting in the subject line.

### **I. Vonnegut and Trump's America**

Kurt Vonnegut is well-known as a satirist, often critiquing, or at the very least complicating, American ideological assumptions and governmental policies and procedures. At times, these commentaries are explicit, and at others, they are implied or metaphorical. Much has changed in the United States since Vonnegut passed over a decade ago. From the first black president in 2008 and openly white-supremacist rallies in 2017 to a recent ban on transpeople in the military and increasing controversy around abortion rights, the country is divided, and not just along Democratic and Republican lines.

During his presidential campaign, Donald Trump promised to “Make America Great Again.” Some questioned the assumption that America was no longer great, wondering to what era Trump was harkening. Others agreed that America had drastically changed in ways they wished to reverse. Since Trump took office in 2017, many federal policies have changed, altering both the socio-political and cultural climate.

Vonnegut (a member of the so-called “greatest generation”) might have been thought of as wanting to make America great again, too—though in a wholly different register and historical moment. What might the writer have to say about the current social, political, and economic situation(s) we are in? How can his work provide insight into current ideological assumptions being made? What would it look like for Vonnegut to “Make America Great”?

### **II. Open Topic**

We also invite proposals on any other aspect of Vonnegut's life or work.