ALA 2020: Don DeLillo Society

Don DeLillo: Mystery, Secrecy, Subtext
Throughout his career, DeLillo’s work has balanced surfaces and underworlds: the baseball game and bomb of Underworld, the accepted history versus the underhistory of the JFK assassination in Libra, the novelists and terrorists of Mao II, among many others. This year’s panel will articulate and explore, but not necessarily solve, these mysteries, and also why secrecy seems central to our understanding of DeLillo’s work.

Roundtable: Don DeLillo’s Representations of Gender
In addition to a traditional panel, The Don DeLillo Society will hold a roundtable on the subject of DeLillo’s representations of gender in his work. In 2019, an excerpt from Cosmopolis was one of several taken to task by the Twitter account “Men Write Women.” This roundtable will discuss the ways in which DeLillo describes and men and women and their roles, and the ways in contemporary social media, while possibly taking his writing out of context, may also help demonstrate ways in which gender may be more central to our understanding of DeLillo’s work than scholarship has previously suggested.

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