

Eudora Welty Society Call For Papers

American Literature Association Meeting

May 23-26, 2019 Boston, MA

1. Eudora Welty: The Eye of the Photographer

In 1944, Eudora Welty remarked “if you click your camera at something, people from nowhere run up and ask ‘Why did you take that?’”

The motivational impulse, artistic composition, cultural context, and sociological importance of Welty’s photographs have all received scholarly attention since the 1971 publication of her photobook *One Time, One Place*. Our ALA panel invites further new work on Welty’s photography. Proposals may include the relation of her photography to biography, literature, art history, to photographic technique, genre, and history, as well as to such topics as memory, location, and racial representation.

Please send titled proposals (~300 words) for this session to Annette Trefzer at atrefzer@olemiss.edu by Dec 1. Immediate expressions of interest are very much welcome.

2. *One Writer’s Beginnings* Reconsidered

2019 marks the 35th anniversary of Eudora Welty’s memoir *One Writer’s Beginnings* (Harvard UP, 1984). Loved and admired by a diverse readership, this book centers on the circumstances that sparked Welty’s passion to become a writer. Originating from her presentations as inaugural speaker in Harvard’s Massey Lectures in American Studies (then the “Lectures in the History of American Civilization”), the book chapters are based on her three lectures --“Listening,” “Learning to See,” and “Finding a Voice” --and they focus on Welty’s childhood and family life in Jackson, Mississippi.

We hope to reopen the discussion of this text by addressing such questions as the intersections between memoir and fiction, self-fashioning and the genre of autobiography, choices of inclusion and exclusion, representations of childhood, the topics of memory, nostalgia, and grief. Topics might also include family relationships, the Welty library and early reading, Jackson then and now, travel, mobility, and adventure, or issues of gender, power, and voice. Please send titled proposals (~300 words) for this session to Annette Trefzer at atrefzer@olemiss.edu by Dec 1. Immediate expressions of interest are very much welcome.