

The William Faulkner Society invites papers for the following panel and roundtable at the 30th Annual Conference of the American Literature Association, to be held in Boston, MA at the Westin Copley Place, May 23-26, 2019.

Panel: “Faulkner: The Expanded Field”

The William Faulkner Society invites papers that explore American literature as an “expanded field.” In a recent essay, “Weak Network: Faulkner’s Transpacific Reparations” (2018), Wai Chee Dimock builds upon Eve Kosofsky Sedwick’s famous notion of “reparative reading” to define the expanded field as “elastic and amendable, a field of second look and second chance.” Within it, the single work is defined by a “gathering penumbra, ancillary to but not without bearing on the existing corpus.” It assumes the individual text “to fall short—in the sense that it cannot be its own sequel, its own endpoint,” producing a codependency across time and space. On the one hand, the expanded field is defined by methodologies that seek to repair injuries (historical, psychological, economic, and geo-political). On the other hand, the expanded field is premised upon the literary work as fundamentally “networked,” i.e., amendable by what postdates it.

Faulkner famously declared his fictional county to be “my own little postage stamp of native soil,” as if trying to contain the endpoint, continually imagining his own works to be sequels to each other. But literary history has shown that, if anything, Faulkner is an open or expanded field, amenable, globally redefined, networked, incomplete, and bound to spaces and temporalities outside of the metropole. American literature itself is, Dimock writes, a “long-running, loosely mediated, and multicentric field.” While we are especially interested in papers that locate Faulkner within an expanded field, submissions might include methodological papers on how theories of the “network,” the global, or reparative/reparations can be brought to bear upon American literary study. Submissions might include literary critical case studies that pursue Faulkner and/or other writers within an expanded and amendable field, following a network of traces or “gathering penumbra” where, as Dimock suggests, a writer’s “falling short is less a sin than a spur to the work of others.” In this way, what constitutes and delineates “American” literature becomes open to new debate.

Please send 250-word abstract for a twenty-minute presentation to Taylor Hagood at thagood@fau.edu by January 14, 2019. Please title your subject line “ALA Proposal [your last name].” Also, please notify us of any AV equipment needs.

Roundtable: (re)Framing Single Author Studies

The William Faulkner Society is seeking participants for a roundtable that considers single author studies in new ways that meet ongoing developments in literary criticism. For nearly two decades, if not longer, market pressures and decentering of “the author” have discouraged scholars from committing to the study of a single author as a career goal. Yet single-author study persists (the ALA being a haven for this work), and this roundtable seeks to further theorization of the “single author.” This discussion is especially important in the current moment in Faulkner studies when more attention is being brought to bear on Faulkner as a collaborator, whether in his contributing to the production of screenplays, his not-always-acknowledged working with his wife Estelle, or his being one of many agents involved in the

publication of stories and novels. Faulkner seems more decentered than ever, and perhaps that is why it is important to identify new ways to define who and what Faulkner/"Faulkner" is as a literary figure/entity. At stake is the question of to what extent it is fruitful and advantageous to embrace a single author as a multivalent, multi-interpolated entity or to fashion effective definitions of a single author as a radically independent figure. This roundtable will center on Faulkner, but our hope is that it can foster larger discussions about the specific advantages of studying single authors.

Please send a title and brief (100-word) abstract for a brief roundtable-style presentation to Taylor Hagood at thagood@fau.edu by January 14, 2019. Please title your subject line "ALA Proposal [your last name]." Also, please notify us of any AV equipment needs.

The American Literature Association's 30th annual conference will meet at the Westin Copley Place in Boston on May 23-26, 2019 (Thursday through Sunday of Memorial Day weekend). The deadline for proposals is January 30, 2019. For further information, please consult the ALA website at www.americanliterature.org or for specific questions, contact the conference director and Executive Coordinator of the ALA, Professor Olivia Carr Edenfield, at carr@georgiasouthern.edu or the Executive Director of the ALA, Professor Alfred Bendixen at ab23@princeton.edu.