

## **Memorandum**

Date: Nov. 6, 2018

Subject: Jim Harrison Society Panels for ALA 2019

***Jim Harrison Society. Chair: Chris “CW” Johnson / [cwjohnso@d.umn.edu](mailto:cwjohnso@d.umn.edu)***

### **CALL FOR PAPERS:**

American Literature Association Annual Conference Boston, MA May 23-26, 2019.

The Jim Harrison Society will sponsor **two** sessions at the American Literature Association Annual Conference in 2019.

Please submit proposals with abstracts (250-350 words) to Chris “CW” Johnson, University of Minnesota Duluth, at [cwjohnso@d.umn.edu](mailto:cwjohnso@d.umn.edu).

You may submit more than one proposal, but only one presentation will be allowed at the conference, per ALA guidelines.

**Due Date: January 1, 2019**

### **Proposed Panels:**

#### **#1. Conceptualizing ‘Work’ in Jim Harrison’s Literary Corpus.**

In his life and career, Jim Harrison remarked frequently on his work ethic, and on the role of work in the life of an artist in the larger economy. Central to his thinking was a constant probing of the relationship between Protestant ethic notions of work, spirituality, and the exigencies of artistic production. This panel will host papers that consider ‘Work’ including notions of vocation, calling, artistic commitment, socio-economic class, farming, and cooking -- as theoretical, practical, and artistic phenomena within the poems, fiction, and non-fiction of Jim Harrison.

#### **#2. Influence and Jim Harrison.**

Jim Harrison wrote often of the writers who influenced him across a vast career. Additionally, all of his writing catalogues a vast array of relationships – among writers, artists, musicians, and chefs. And, in historic terms and contexts, Harrison was part of a group of writers who came of age at the end of the 1950’s and burst on the scene in the late Sixties (Bly, Levertov, Brautigan, McGuane, Wakoski, Gerber, Ford, and many others), which has had a persistent presence in American letters. It is also the case that Harrison has influenced countless others, and in cases, mentored and promoted

specific writers. This panel will consider the question of Harrison, influence and relationship, and Harrison's place among American writers.