

# **Call for Papers American Literature Symposium**

## **“American Poetry” February 20-22, 2020**

**Keynote Speaker:  
Aldon Lynn Nielsen  
Pennsylvania State University**

ALA symposia provide opportunities for scholars to meet in pleasant settings, present papers, and share ideas and resources. The February 2020 symposium will focus on American poetry. While we welcome individual proposals, panels and roundtable discussions are also encouraged.

**Location: [Klinton Hotel Palomar](#)  
2121 P Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037**

Hotel Rate: The Hotel Palomar is offering a special rate of \$159 (plus tax) per night for a single or double room.

**Conference Director:  
Richard Flynn, Georgia Southern University**

Conference Fee: \$175

Please email all proposals to Richard Flynn  
[rflynn@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:rflynn@georgiasouthern.edu)  
**before November 10, 2019**

**Conference Details:** The American Literature Association will host a symposium on American poetry in Washington, DC, February 20-22, 2020. Please plan to stay in the conference hotel as this helps us meet our commitment to the hotel and keeps our rates low. The Hotel Palomar is near Dupont Circle, about a 6-minute walk from the Dupont Circle Metro Station.

Sessions run Friday and Saturday, February 21-22. There will be an opening reception on Thursday evening as well as receptions Friday and Saturday evening. Lunch will be served Friday. Please note that luncheon preferences will be sent to conference participants at a later date.

A special event will be planned for Thursday, February 20. Details will follow.

Individuals may propose papers or panels by emailing the conference director, Richard Flynn, at [rfflynn@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:rfflynn@georgiasouthern.edu) no later than November 10, 2019. The proposal should include the title of the presentation or panel, an abstract that provides the conference director with a clear idea of the material that will be covered, a brief vita or description of the presenter's qualifications, and complete mailing addresses and emails for all participants. The proposal should be both pasted into an email and sent as an attachment (preferably in WORD). All emails will be acknowledged in a timely manner. The conference director welcomes proposals for roundtables and panels that deal with the development of important genres and literary movements.

Please note that no audiovisual equipment will be available for the symposium.

Those proposing papers and/or panels will be informed of acceptances by November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Participants will be asked to make their hotel reservations immediately and to pre-register on-line. If necessary, registration the registration fee and form can be mailed using the form that will be provided later on the ALA website. A program will be placed on the ALA website prior to our meeting, and printed programs will be available at the symposium.

**ALA Guidelines:** The most common ALA format is a time slot of one hour and twenty minutes with three papers and a chair. This permits time for discussion and three papers of approximately 20 minutes (or nine typed double-spaced pages). Organizers of panels are free to use other formats provided they respect the time limits. Furthermore, the ALA encourages panel organizers to experiment with innovative formats including discussion groups and panels featuring more speakers and briefer papers. Chairs will make sure that the panels start and end on time and that no speaker goes beyond the allotted time limit. We prefer that chairs not present papers on the panels that they are moderating, and no one may present more than one paper at an ALA symposium.

**Registration:** Please note that the American Literature Association maintains the lowest conference fees of any major scholarly organization because it operates without a paid staff.

The conference fee covers the costs of the conference including one meal and three receptions. Everyone on the program must pre-register by February 2, 2020. The conference fee is \$175 for all participants. We regret that we are unable to offer a lower rate for graduate students and independent scholars for this symposium.

**Please note that anyone who has not registered for the symposium by February 2<sup>nd</sup> will be dropped from the program.**

**ALA Membership:** Membership in the ALA is not required in order to propose or present a paper. In fact, technically the members of the American Literature Association are the various author societies. Individuals may keep informed about the activities of the ALA by checking our website ([www.americanliterature.org](http://www.americanliterature.org)), which is the primary source for information about ALA activities.

The easiest way to find out about the symposium and all ALA activities is by consulting our website: [www.americanliterature.org](http://www.americanliterature.org)

If you have any questions that are not answered by this announcement, please contact Richard Flynn, Conference Director, at [rflynn@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:rflynn@georgiasouthern.edu)

If you have any questions regarding registration for the conference or questions regarding the hotel, please contact Olivia Carr Edenfield, ALA Executive Coordinator, at [carr@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:carr@georgiasouthern.edu)

If you have general questions about the American Literature Association, please contact the Executive Director, Alfred Bendixen, at [ab23@princeton.edu](mailto:ab23@princeton.edu).

Thank you for your interest and your support of the American Literature Association.