

Edith Wharton Society Call for Papers

American Literature Association
May 21-24, 2020 San Diego, CA

Wharton, Bodies, and Mobility

The Edith Wharton Society invites papers that explore how Wharton constructs bodies in her work. Panelists might consider (but are not limited to) the following questions:

- How does the representation and/or meaning of bodies change (or not) in different places/settings?
- Who moves and who cannot, and how do bodies facilitate or hinder movement?
- How do bodies mark social acceptance and belonging?
- How does Wharton represent classed or raced bodies?
- What constitutes acceptable or unacceptable bodies?
- How do bodies coincide with upward or downward social and economic mobility?
- What role does the mobility or immobility of bodies (Wharton's or her characters') play in her travel writing and other nonfiction works or in depictions of travel in her fiction?

All theoretical approaches welcome, and proposals are encouraged to consider more than one of Wharton's works, if possible. The session is organized by Gary Totten and Jennifer Haytock on behalf of the EWS. Please submit titled proposals (approx. 350 words) and a brief CV by December 1, 2020 to Jennifer Haytock at jhaytock@brockport.edu. Please include any requests for AV needs in your proposal. Scholars whose proposals are accepted must be members in good standing of the Edith Wharton Society by the time of the conference.