

## Williams and “Reading”

In his digressive essay on being the subject of the portrait by the painter Emanuel Romano, William Carlos Williams asserted that “We do not read to gain, or not primarily to gain, knowledge of what we are reading—for we read fiction as readily as we read history or philosophy. We read to rescue ourselves from the befuddlement in which we exist between express commitments of our attention.”

How may recent discussions of “cultures of reading” in forums such as *PMLA* (October 2018, January 2019) and other journals, critical approaches developed on the basis of cognitive science, or more historically distant discussions based in American pragmatist philosophy and/or critical theories of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, inform our current approaches to Williams’s poetry and prose?

Proposals, drafts or abstracts for presentations on the topic of “Williams and ‘Reading’” are requested for a panel sponsored by the William Carlos Williams Society at the American Literature Association Conference (San Diego, CA) in May 21-24, 2020. Please reply to Stephen Hahn at [hahns@wpunj.edu](mailto:hahns@wpunj.edu) by December 15, 2019 for consideration.

## Williams and Medical Humanities

Proposals, drafts, or abstracts on any aspect of the topic of Williams and medical humanities—including aging, disabilities, doctor/patient relationships, phenomenology of illness, etc.—are requested for a panel sponsored by the William Carlos Williams Society at the American Literature Association Conference (San Diego, CA) in May 21-24, 2020. Please reply to Daniel L. Burke at [dburke7@lac.edu](mailto:dburke7@lac.edu) by December 15, 2019 for consideration.