

ALA 2020: Don DeLillo Society

Don DeLillo: Mystery, Secrecy, Subtext

Throughout his career, DeLillo's work has balanced surfaces and underworlds: the baseball game and bomb of *Underworld*, the accepted history versus the underhistory of the JFK assassination in *Libra*, the novelists and terrorists of *Mao II*, among many others. This year's panel will articulate and explore, but not necessarily solve, these mysteries, and also why secrecy seems central to our understanding of DeLillo's work.

Roundtable: Don DeLillo's Representations of Gender

In addition to a traditional panel, The Don DeLillo Society will hold a roundtable on the subject of DeLillo's representations of gender in his work. In 2019, an excerpt from *Cosmopolis* was one of several taken to task by the Twitter account "Men Write Women." This roundtable will discuss the ways in which DeLillo describes men and women and their roles, and the ways in which contemporary social media, while possibly taking his writing out of context, may also help demonstrate ways in which gender may be more central to our understanding of DeLillo's work than scholarship has previously suggested.

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