

## Green Melville

What are Melville's environmental visions beyond the whale? Elegant descriptions of plant life, for example, appear throughout his writings – from the tropical forests of *Typee* and *Omoo* to the flowers of *Weeds and Wildings* – yet Melville's botanical worlds are often obscured by more familiar images of cetaceans and captains. Why? And what are the implications of seeing Melville as a “green” writer? This panel invites papers on Melville's relationship with “greenness,” as he put it to Hawthorne, broadly construed to include plants and algae but also the color itself and its affiliation with sensory ecologies, embodiment, sustainability, democracy, and environmental activism. How might Melville's treatment of vegetal, algal, and fungal life extend or reorient his concern for “Nature,” especially in the less-studied poems and fictions? More generally, how do Melville's considerations of greenness help us reimagine questions of reproduction, originality, queerness, complexity, scale, and literary style in ways that make his work relevant to broader conversations in contemporary environmental humanities?

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