

“Walt Whitman and Women” Panel at American Literature Association, 2020

The Whitman Studies Association is sponsoring a roundtable on “Whitman and Women” at the 2020 American Literature Association annual conference in San Diego, California, May 21-24, 2020. We welcome proposals for the roundtable panel.

Whitman famously declared he was “the poet of the woman the same as the man,” and this roundtable seeks to confront both this statement and womanhood itself in a broadly conceived and inclusive way. The roundtable invites but is not restricted to papers that discuss: (1) Whitman’s ideas about and representations of women’s bodies, including and moving beyond motherhood and sex work; (2) Whitman’s ideas about and representations of women’s desire and sexuality; (3) Whitman’s identifications with women, including trans identification; (4) Whitman, women, and violence or coercion, including sexual violence/coercion; (5) Whitman’s treatment of women and race, including indigenous women and enslaved women; (6) Whitman and women’s work/labor; (7) Whitman and women intellectuals and writers; (8) Whitman’s engagement with contemporary women’s issues in political and social life; (9) Whitman’s influence on and Whitman as influenced by specific women, including contemporary activists, artists, and social figures, family members, disciples, and “Poets to Come.”

Please send one-page-maximum abstracts electronically no later than January 10, 2020, to roundtable chairs Catherine Waitinas (cwaitina@calpoly.edu) and Maire Mullins (mairemullins@pepperdine.edu).