

ALA 2021 Boston -- Margaret Fuller Society

The Margaret Fuller Society welcomes proposals for two sessions at the 32nd Annual Conference

May 27-30, 2021, Boston

Women in the Nineteenth Century—Traveling, Writing, Speaking

The writings of such women as Margaret Fuller, Catharine Sedgwick, Rebecca Cox Jackson, Betsey Stockton, Caroline Kirkland, Frances E. W. Harper, Eliza Potter, Susan B. Anthony, Ida B. Wells, and Anna Julia Cooper, to name only a few, show the wide range of women's reasons for and responses to travel. This panel proposes to question ways of thinking about traveling, including theorizing as well as representations (or silencings) of travel in the writings of Fuller and other women travelers, especially women of color. Whether focused on genres traditionally thought of as travel writing or on other modes in which women wrote and spoke, we would like to interrogate how motivations, encounters, itineraries, geographical locations, traveling equipment, and audiences have shaped literary, cultural, and political expressions in Fuller's works and in that of women of her century. We are especially interested in ways that race and class, as well as gender, might have impeded or influenced modes of traveling and modes of writing about it. By including writing by Fuller and 19th century women travelers, this panel aims to explore how these writers conceptualize travel, how they approach it as a topic, and how they respond to travel's capacity to register physical and imaginative experiences, or to highlight or circumvent obstacles and impossibilities.

Teaching and Practicing Feminism(s) in 2021

Are Margaret Fuller's feminist visions for social change still valid and contemporary in our age? The 2020 anniversary of women's suffrage in the US calls attention to women's civil rights, and to the language of the law. Taking into account Fuller's early explorations of gender fluidity in her private and published writings, in her feminist theory, and in her pedagogical experiments with adults and young people, this panel seeks to investigate how the reconceptualization of gender, sexuality, politics, and the body in the feminist writings of Margaret Fuller and in those of other women writers (including those highlighting the presence of racism in white women's suffrage movements) can be practiced and taught in the classroom. Using both theory and pedagogy, we invite papers that center on feminist practice and rhetoric, collaboration, aesthetics and activism, with a special focus on feminist critiques by militant and radical writers .

We welcome papers from scholars at any career stage. Paper proposals of 250-500 words and a short Vita should be sent to Sonia Di Loreto (sonia.diloreto@unito.it) and Jana Argersinger (argerj@gmail.com) by January 15, 2021. Please note if you will require A/V for your presentation.