

Edith Wharton Society Call for Papers

American Literature Association
May 27-30, 2021 Boston, MA

Reading Edith Wharton at Times of Crisis: Precarity, Vulnerability, and Risk

This panel invites papers that explore how Wharton represents different forms of precarity, vulnerability, and risk throughout her fiction, poetry, drama, as well as non-fiction (e.g. travel writing, letters, essays). Panelists might consider (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- How does Wharton represent the biopolitics of illness and death?
- How is precarity inflected by race, ethnicity, gender, ability, and age?
- What are the intersections of precarity, class, and capitalist risk?
- Is risk endemic to Wharton's representation of American culture and how does this contrast with her views on permanence and tradition (especially in an international context)?
- What narrative forms, tropes, and genres does Wharton choose to register motifs of precarity and risk?
- How does Wharton represent the precarity of military conflict and colonial regimes?

All theoretical approaches are welcome, and panelists are encouraged to consider more than one of Wharton's works, if possible. Please submit titled proposals (approx. 350 words) and a brief CV by February 5, 2021 to Myrto Drizou at myrto.drizou@boun.edu.tr. Please include any requests for AV needs in your proposal. Scholars whose proposals are accepted must be members in good standing of the Edith Wharton Society by the time of the conference.