

## Thoreau Society - ALA Proposals 2021

The Thoreau society is please to sponsor two panels for the upcoming ALA Conference on May 27-30, 2021 in Boston (<https://americanliteratureassociation.org/>).

**Thoreau in the Anthropocene:** While Thoreau is America's touchstone prophet of Nature and the wild, he is also one of our earliest and best witnesses to the many ways the human world entangles and threatens the environment. What does it mean to read Thoreau from the midst of the Anthropocene? How does his work differ when we shift from reading him as the spokesman for the wild to an early activist on behalf of a threatened planet? How does Thoreau's writing hold up in the age of Standing Rock, Global Climate Strike and Extinction Rebellion? What does Thoreau's model of civil disobedience connect to activists like Bill McKibben, LaDonna Brave Bull Allard and Greta Thunberg? Where does Thoreau's work fit into the growing movement for environmental and climate justice? How has Thoreau's growing understanding of phenology and river hydrology aided our current understanding of climate change and ecosystem resilience? How might Thoreau's reconception of the human and its imbrication in what Laura Dassow Walls calls the parahuman serve us in the era of mass extinction? Please submit 300-word proposals for 20-minute presentations by January 31, 2021 to John J. Kucich at [jkucich@bridgew.edu](mailto:jkucich@bridgew.edu).

**(Post)Pandemic Thoreau:** During the past year, as people across the world grappled with newly imposed solitude, rediscovered their local environment on socially distant excursions, coped with involuntary simplicity, grappled with renewed calls for racial justice and confronted a dizzying variety of civil disobedience, Thoreau emerged as an important touchstone. How was Thoreau used or misused as a reference point in this new cultural landscape? What is it like to teach Thoreau different in the context of pandemic and social upheaval? Where do Thoreau's writing and example help in understanding and adapting to newly reshaped social landscape, and where does his work fall short? This panel welcomes participants working in Thoreau studies as well as those working in related fields. Please submit 100-200 word proposals for 10-minute presentations by January 31, 2021 to John J. Kucich at [jkucich@bridgew.edu](mailto:jkucich@bridgew.edu).