

Call for Papers
American Literature Society at ALA 2021

American Literary Scholarship in Our Age of Crisis

While COVID-19 has changed how we teach American Literature, this panel asks how our more recent converging catastrophes should shape the direction, commitment, and social engagement of scholarship in American Literature. What should we be reading now in light of a global pandemic that added to the ongoing crises of police violence against people of color, the rise of the carceral state, migrant rights, environmental trouble, and domestic insurrection incited by a president, all of which arguably emerge from an acute democracy deficit that has marked the US for decades? More, how should we be writing about American Literature to engage social change through our research and publication reach, especially in earlier periods of American Literature that, while they might precede the crises of our current age, tell the long histories of events to come?

Submit abstracts of 300 words to Jesse Alemán, jman@unm.edu, by Monday, February 22. This session will be presented virtually.