

Call for Papers
American Literature Association Symposium

“Rebirth Renewal Renaissance”
September 9 – 11, 2021

With the gradual but hopeful emergence from the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021, the American Literature Association fall 2021 symposium seeks papers on the theme of renewal, rejuvenation, or regeneration in all genres and periods of American literary history. Rebirth is the diastole to the systole of the fall: after every period of quarantine comes the reentry, after every time of isolation the reintroduction, after every drought the revivification. The cycle speaks to the human desire to start over, to repair or refurbish after a collapse, to revamp or reinvent after some fallow stagnancy. The yearning may take the form of a call for a return to some mythic past, as in the jeremiad, or for a “clean break” from its stranglehold, as in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Crack-Up*. Just as dictionaries define the prefix “re-” as meaning both “back” and “again,” the impulse may mean to return and to repeat, sometimes in hopes of the same outcome, sometimes in hopes of a different one. Either way, the desire is a form by which we give shape to experience. The theme can be as literal or a metaphorical as the presenter desires: perhaps a revival of a specific drama or movement, an artist’s comeback after a huge flop, a second great awakening (or a third even) decades or centuries after a first. We are also interested in the failure to reconstruct or revitalize, how this yearning leads to false hopes for resurgence or resurrection. However the idea takes shape, we look forward to reconnecting with our friends and fellow scholars in New Orleans, a city indelibly attune to restoration and rebirth.

While we welcome individual proposals, panels and roundtable discussions are also encouraged.

Location: Hotel Monteleone
214 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Hotel Rate: The Hotel Monteleone is offering a special rate of \$189 (plus tax) per night for a single or double room.

Conference Directors:
Kirk Curnutt and Patrick Bonds, Troy University

Conference Fee: \$175

Please email all proposals to
Patrick Bonds and Kirk Curnutt at
english@troy.edu

before June 15, 2021

Conference Details: The American Literature Association will host a symposium on the theme of rebirth, renewal, and renaissance in New Orleans, LA, September 9-11, 2021. Please plan to stay in the conference hotel as this helps us meet our commitment to the hotel and keeps our rates low. The Hotel Monteleone is located in the heart of the French Quarter and is known for its long literary history, serving such guests as Ernest Hemingway, Tennessee Williams, and William Faulkner. The link for making hotel reservations may be found on the ALA website.

Sessions will run Friday and Saturday, September 10-11. There will be an opening reception on Thursday evening as well as a keynote reception on Friday night. A buffet lunch will be included on Saturday.

A special event will be planned for Thursday, September 9. Details will follow on the ALA website.

Individuals may propose papers, panels, or roundtables by emailing the conference directors, Patrick Bonds and Kurt Curnutt, at english@troy.edu no later than June 15, 2021. The proposal should include the title of the presentation or panel, an abstract that provides the conference directors with a clear idea of the material that will be covered, a brief vita or description of the presenter's qualifications, and complete mailing addresses and emails for all participants. The proposal should be both pasted into an email and sent as an attachment (preferably in WORD). All emails will be acknowledged in a timely manner. The conference directors welcome proposals for roundtables and panels that deal with the development of important genres and literary movements.

Please note that no audiovisual equipment will be available for the symposium.

Those proposing papers and/or panels will be informed of acceptances by June 30th. Participants will be asked to make their hotel reservations immediately and to register on-line or may mail their registration by using the form provided on the ALA website. A program will be placed on the ALA website prior to the meeting, and printed programs will be available at the symposium.

ALA Guidelines: The most common ALA format is a time slot of one hour and twenty minutes with three papers and a chair. This permits time for discussion and three papers of approximately 20 minutes (or nine typed double-spaced pages). Organizers of panels are free to use other formats provided they respect the time limits. Furthermore, the ALA encourages panel organizers to experiment with innovative formats including discussion groups and panels featuring more speakers and briefer papers. Chairs will make sure that the panels start and end on time and that no speaker goes beyond the allotted time limit. We prefer that chairs not present papers on the panels that they are moderating, and no one may present more than one paper at an ALA symposium.

Registration: Please note that the American Literature Association maintains the lowest conference fees of any major scholarly organization because it operates without a paid staff.

The conference fee covers the costs of the conference, which include a lunch and two receptions. Everyone on the program must pre-register by August 15, 2021. The conference fee is \$175 for all participants. The link for registering may be found on the ALA website. We regret that we are unable to offer a lower rate for graduate students and independent scholars for this symposium.

Please note that anyone who has not registered for the symposium by August 15, 2021, will be dropped from the program.

ALA Membership: Membership in the ALA is not required in order to propose or present a paper. In fact, technically the members of the American Literature Association are the various author societies. Individuals may keep informed about the activities of the ALA by checking our website (www.americanliteratureassociation.org), which is the primary source for information about ALA activities, or our twitter account. You may also follow us on Facebook.

The easiest way to find out about the symposium and all ALA activities is by consulting our website: www.americanliteratureassociation.org

If you have any questions that are not answered by this announcement, please contact the conference directors. If you have any questions regarding registration for the conference or questions regarding the hotel, please contact Olivia Carr Edenfield, Director of the ALA, at carr@georgiasouthern.edu If you have general questions about the American Literature Association, please contact the Executive Director, Alfred Bendixen, at ab23@princeton.edu.

Thank you for your interest and your support of the American Literature Association.