Kurt Vonnegut Society

Call for Papers
American Literature Association Annual Conference
May 26-29, 2022
Chicago, IL

The Kurt Vonnegut Society will sponsor two panels at the upcoming ALA Conference:

Vonnegut on Film
Robert Weide’s documentary Kurt Vonnegut: Unstuck in Time was released in theaters on November 19, 2021, following a Kickstarter campaign and much anticipation from Vonnegut fans and scholars alike. Weide’s work is the first full-length documentary film addressing the author’s life and works. This session invites responses to the documentary and to “Vonnegut on Film” more broadly.

Papers could respond to the documentary itself: How does the Weide documentary aligns with or challenges other biographical depictions of the writer, including those presented in books by Charles Shields, Gregory Sumner, Ginger Strand, or others? How does Weide’s Vonnegut fit with popular perceptions of Vonnegut, as expressed through social media, memes, popular magazines, television mentions or appearances, tributes, etc.? 

Papers might also address or larger issues concerning Vonnegut and film: adaptations of Vonnegut’s work (Slaughterhouse Five, Breakfast of Champions, Happy Birthday Wanda June, Mother Night, 2031, Harrison Bergeron, Slapstick of Another Kind), discussions of Vonnegut’s presence in film and other video recordings (Back to School, The Shape of Stories lecture, commencement speeches, and televised interviews), or analyses of Vonnegut’s own use of film as a device (the backwards film in Slaughterhouse-Five, for instance, or the blue movies in Kilgore Trout novels).

Open Topic
We also invite proposals on any other aspect of Vonnegut’s life or work.

Please send 250 word abstracts and a brief CV to the Kurt Vonnegut Society at vonnegutsociety@gmail.com by January 15, 2022.