

The Henry James Society
American Literature Association Conference
Westin Copley Place
Boston, MA

May 25-28, 2023

CALL FOR PAPERS

Jamesian Space

In the aftermath of the spatial turn in literary studies, we look for fresh approaches to Jamesian spaces, material and metaphorical, real and imaginary. James's texts have explicit spatial dimensions. Whether as settings aesthetically conceived or as sites of cultural, social, and political signification, spaces in James constitute means of thematic as well as formal exploration and even experimentation. From the Roman Colosseum to the "house of fiction" and from the "chamber of consciousness" to the "jolly corner" and the "amazing hotel-world," James's literary geography emphatically asserts the dynamic relations between space, subjectivity, and text. How do James's spatial politics affect forms of representation and how do they address local, regional, national, and transnational concerns? How are identity and difference (national, gender, racial, class, ethnicity, [dis]ability, age) spatially expressed and construed in his fiction, non-fiction, and private writings? How are different types of space negotiated and represented? We seek papers that explore the thematic, methodological, and theoretical dimensions of Jamesian spaces, which could also include writings by other members of the James family. All approaches are welcome. Possible topics might include:

Boston and its environs
Infrastructure and urban spatiality
Ecological vs social space
Oceanic and transatlantic spaces
Literary mapping/cartography
Autobiography and formative places
Private and public spaces
Domestic spaces
Theatrical or performative spaces
Connections between the local, the regional, the national, the transnational, the global
Gender, sexuality, race, class, ethnicity, disability, age
Displacement, inclusion, exclusion
Border crossings
Aesthetic space and narrative form
Multisensory spaces
Affective spaces
Typographical and pictorial spaces
Non-places, heterotopias
Space and time

Please send 250-word proposals for 15-20-minute papers to adespoto@enl.uoa.gr and sarah.wadsworth@marquette.edu by JANUARY 10, 2023. Please note if you will have AV requirements.