

The Charlotte Perkins Gilman Society invites papers for two panels at the 2023 American Literature Association Conference, May 25-28, 2023 in Boston.

1. Gilman on Evolution and Social Theory

Charlotte Perkins Gilman's career coincided with the establishment of the social sciences in America. Though she worked outside of academia, Gilman was one of America's earliest and foremost social theorists. Like many other intellectuals at the turn of the century, Gilman sought to incorporate evolutionary science into her social philosophy. From her early Nationalist poems to her utopian fiction and numerous sociological works, Gilman relied on a model of evolutionary science to advocate for social reform. For this panel, we invite proposals for presentations that examine Gilman's engagement with evolutionism in any of her literary or non-fiction works, as well as the writing of her contemporaries, and those who influenced Gilman.

Some questions to consider include but are not limited to:

How is Gilman's social philosophy informed by evolutionary science?

How is Gilman's poetry and/or fiction informed by evolutionary science?

How is Gilman's intersectional feminism related to reform Darwinism?

How does Gilman reconcile her religious faith with her interest in evolution?

How do Gilman's views on evolution influence her politics?

How did Gilman's social theory influence progressivism?

2. Open Topic

For our second panel, we invite proposals for presentations that examine any aspect of Gilman's life and work. We also welcome comparative projects, digital humanities presentations, and pedagogical papers.

Please submit abstracts to andrew_ball@emerson.edu by January 15.