

Teaching Poe and (No) Nature

In his time, Poe usually rejected the pastoral utopia that the Transcendentalists arguably clung to. In its stead, he put landscapes of decay; houses where mold and sluggish waters commune with their residents; oceans that cause catastrophe and eco-horrific situations; and vaults that shut out fresh air, terrifying living beings infected by corruption. In most of his stories and poems, as in the “prose-poem” Eureka, the nature/culture divide is breached, and a certain confidence in “perverseness” prevails alongside suspicion of a cosmological trick where, as in “The Conqueror Worm,” “the play is the tragedy, ‘Man.’”

After having hosted an academic session on Poe’s Environmental Humanities (ALA 2021), the PSA will sponsor a panel titled **Teaching Poe and (No) Nature** at the upcoming 2024 American Literature Association Conference in Chicago (May 23-26). We now seek proposals that explore ways of teaching Poe by highlighting his contributions to current debates on the Anthropocene, posthuman(ism), extractivism and global depletion, or that suggest pedagogical uses of Poe’s work in various contexts such as university classrooms, artistic endeavors, and public-facing projects on our current environmental crisis.

To submit a proposal, please send a title and abstract of no more than 250 words to Margarida Vale de Gato at margaridagato@campus.ul.pt. Please use “PSA ALA Panel 2024” for the subject line. **The deadline for submissions is January 12, 2024. Panelists will be notified by January 15, 2024.**