

Call for Papers – AHSA Sponsored Panel at the ALA 35th Annual Conference

Comedy & Humor in American Literature

Organized by the American Humor Studies Association

The American Humor Studies Association (AHSA) welcomes papers at the upcoming American Literature Association (ALA) Conference that address the role of comedy and humor in American literature and culture. What makes people laugh and why does it matter? How is the comic mode used to explore social and political issues? How can literary studies contribute to the ongoing scholarly debates about comedy and humor? While some humor scholars examine the central role of racism in American humor and others examine the way feminist and BIPOC comedians use humor as a form of protest, these studies all underscore the discursive power of joking. We welcome submissions from graduate students and junior scholars as well as established scholars.

Following the American Humor Studies Association’s commitment to addressing the historical, cultural, political, and material dimensions of humor and comedy, this panel welcomes various approaches in the fields of media and cultural studies, literary history and analysis, critical race theories, performance studies, rhetorical studies, and ethnic studies. Papers may examine a range of texts including but not limited to: literature, film, stand up, television, and social media.

The study of comedy and humor invites complex theoretical approaches and areas of interest, including:

- feminist uses of humor and comedy
- humor and affect
- comedic performance and embodiment
- satire and political comedy
- stand-up comedians and their personas
- race and comedy

Conference Information:

The American Literature Association Annual Conference will meet at the Palmer House Hilton May 23-26, 2024 in Chicago, IL. For further information about the conference please consult the ALA website at <https://americanliteratureassociation.org/ala-conferences/ala-annual-conference/>

Submission Guidelines:

Please email your submissions for this panel to the AHSA as a word doc or pdf, including a 300-word abstract, your paper title, name, affiliation, and a brief bio to Samantha Silver at samanthasilver@gwu.edu. Please use the subject line “ALA Submission” in your emails and submit abstracts by **January 10, 2024**. Note: If you’re interested in helping co-chair the panel, please let us know in your submission email.