

Botanical Williams

In his *Autobiography* William Carlos Williams describes his childhood in a then-rural Rutherford, New Jersey, as “my personal wild world,” noting, “flowers and trees were my peculiar interest. To touch a tree, to climb it especially, but just to know flowers was all I wanted” (20). His study of and focus on the botanical deeply informed his career in medicine and his literary work; indeed his poems are rich with imagery of all kinds of plants, especially flowers.

This session will explore the botanical Williams. We are interested in papers that explore how he used plants of all kinds as inspiration and as a vehicle for his imagination. Topics may include Williams’s focus on flora of “the local,” Prevalence of trees in Williams’s work, Readings of Williams and naturalism, Science and poetry, or (Plant-based) ecology in Williams

For consideration, please submit a brief proposal (300-word abstract and 100-word bio) by January 25th 2024 to Daniel Burke at dburke7@luc.edu.