

The Robert Frost Society – ALA 2025

Frost and the Precarity of the Local CFP

The era of globalization has everywhere heightened concerns about what may be called the precarity of the local in the face of ever-advancing technological modernity. Charles Taylor has written of “the great disembedding”; Habermas has spoken of “the colonization of the lifeworld”; Wendell Berry reflects on “the unsettling of America.” Though thus recently rekindled, such worries are longstanding in Western modernity -- reaching back at least as far as Herder, Rousseau, and Romanticism in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and powerfully surfacing in regionalist writing of many kinds in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Robert Frost’s poetry from throughout his career is pervasively expressive of this concern, even as it characteristically resists simple binary oppositions, and even as his growing national celebrity pulled him away from his own willed and cherished New England locality. The Robert Frost Society invites papers commenting on any aspect of the local and its precarity in Frost’s life and work. Please send brief proposals (max 200 words) to neal.dolan@utoronto.ca by Jan. 15, 2025.