

**This final draft of the program reflects final changes and will be the copy that goes to press.** Clearly, it is too late to request changes or to request AV.

If something prevents you from presenting your paper, please notify the chair of your panel and the conference director as soon as possible.

Registration and Hotel: Our room block at the Westin has closed. If you have not secured housing for the conference, you may consider using A Room With A View by following [this link](#).

# American Literature Association

A Coalition of Societies Devoted to the Study of  
American Authors  
36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on American Literature  
May 21 – 24, 2025

The Westin Copley Place  
10 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02116

Conference Director:  
Olivia Carr Edenfield  
Georgia Southern University

**American Literature Association**  
 A Coalition of Societies Devoted to the Study of American Authors  
 36th Annual Conference on American Literature  
 May 21 – 24, 2025

Acknowledgements:

The Conference Director, along with the Executive Board of the ALA, wishes to thank all of the society representatives and panelists for their contributions to the conference. Special appreciation to those who good-heartedly agreed to chair sessions. In addition, The Association expresses its gratitude to The Department of English at Georgia Southern University for its consistent support. Particular thanks to our Executive Assistants and recent Georgia Southern University MA graduates, Savannah Barrow, Maegan Bishop, Holly Garrett, Michaela Smith, and April Trepagnier for their countless efforts in support of the conference, months before and on site.

I speak on behalf of all attendees in expressing our sincerest thanks to Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University, Founder and Executive Director of the American Literature Association, for his 36 years of devoted service. The Association also extends its gratitude to Kirk Curnutt and Leslie Petty, Executive Coordinators of the ALA, and Rene H. Treviño, Director of Digital Resources and Margaret Rose Edenfield, Creative Associate. Special appreciation to Executive Board Member James Nagel for his long service to the ALA. We are particularly grateful for his efforts in bringing the esteemed writer Julia Alvarez to Boston. My deepest appreciation as always goes to my husband, Daniel.

Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University  
 Director, American Literature Association

Best wishes from the Executive Board for a successful conference.

Alfred Bendixen, Executive Director, Princeton University  
 Olivia Carr Edenfield, Director, Georgia Southern University  
 Kirk Curnutt, Executive Coordinator, Troy University  
 Leslie Petty, Executive Coordinator, Rhodes College  
 Rene Trevino, Director of Digital Resources, California State University, Long Beach  
 Stephanie Burt, Harvard University  
 Deborah Clarke, Arizona State University  
 Karen Kilcup, University of North Carolina Greensboro  
 Richard Kopley, Penn State-DuBois  
 James Nagel, University of Georgia  
 Jeanne Reesman, University of Texas at San Antonio  
 Oliver Scheiding, University of Mainz  
 Cherene Sherrard-Johnson, Pomona College  
 John Whalen-Bridge, National University of Singapore  
 Jeffrey Andrew Weinstock, Central Michigan University

## **ALA Land Acknowledgement:**

The Westin Copley Place, in which we have gathered to share our scholarly explorations of American literary culture, sits on the traditional homelands of the Massachusett people, an area that has long been a site of meeting and exchange for different nations and communities, including their neighbors: the Pawtucket, the Wampanoag, and Nipmuck. We pay our respect to the Indigenous caretakers of these lands and waters who have lived here, who live here now, and who will live here in the future.

## **A Note on A/V Equipment:**

The 2025 American Literature Association conference will provide a digital projector and screen for the sessions in Empire, Great Republic, Helicon, Courier, St George A, St. George D, Essex North-East, and Essex North-West during the entire conference. Individuals will need to provide their own laptops and are encouraged to provide their own cables or dongles to hook up with the projector, particularly if using a Mac or Ipad. There is no Zoom or internet capability in any of the rooms. A technician will be available during the conference to answer any questions or help with set-up. Once the conference begins, it is no longer possible to add additional a/v equipment to the sessions.

Sessions scheduled for AV are in St. George A, St. George D, Essex North-East, Essex North-West, Empire, Great Republic, Helicon, and Courier.

## **A Note on Navigating the Conference Space in the Westin Copley Place:**

The conference takes place on the third and seventh floor of the hotel. The third-floor space includes our registration desk, our book exhibit, and all sessions in the Essex and St. George rooms as well as the Staffordshire Ballroom and the Essex Ballroom. All other meeting rooms are on the seventh floor. You can reach the third floor via escalator, but you will need to use the elevator to reach the seventh-floor rooms. Please consult the map on the back of the program

**Registration Desk (Essex Foyer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Westin)**

Wednesday, 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Thursday, 8:00 am – 5:30 pm

Friday, 8:00 am – 5:30 pm

Saturday, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Book Exhibit (Essex Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Westin)**

Thursday 10:30 am – 5:00 pm

Thursday 1:00 pm – 2:20 pm

**University of South Carolina Press Invites You to  
A Book Signing with the author of *Understanding Octavia E. Butler*  
Kendra R. Parker, Georgia Southern University**

Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Note: Set-up for exhibitors will be Thursday from 8:00 am – 10:30 am

## Special Events

**Wednesday May 21, 2025**  
**Opening Registration & Reception**  
**8:00 pm– 10:00 pm**  
**Essex Foyer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Westin**

**Drop by to collect your badge and program and stay for a beverage if you would like  
 as we kick off the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual American Literature Association Conference.  
 Welcome to Boston!**

**Wednesday May 21, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm, and Saturday May 24, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm**  
**The Raven's Trail Walking Tour of Poe's Boston**

The Bostonians are very well in their way. Their hotels are bad.  
 Their pumpkin-pies are delicious. Their poetry is not so good.  
 —Edgar Allan Poe, November 1845

This 90-minute tour explores Poe's connections to Boston, from his birth here in 1809 to his return as a young man in 1827 and his controversial appearance before the Boston Lyceum in 1845. Though Poe spent less than a year living in Boston, he was intensely engaged throughout his career with the writers and editors he called "Frogpondians" and "Crazyites." Sites visited include the likely Poe birthplace, Edgar Allan Poe Square, the grave of Charles Sprague (called the Banker-Poet of Boston), the Frog Pond, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Boston Common, and the King's Chapel Burying Ground.

Your guide is Paul Lewis, Boston College Professor of English Emeritus, past president of the Poe Studies Association, editor of *The Citizen Poets of Boston: A Collection of Forgotten Poems, 1789–1820*, and author of *Quothin' "The Raven": The First Responses to America's Most Famous Poem* (forthcoming from Mercer University Press).

The tours will run in all but truly inclement weather and start promptly at 4 p.m.  
 Starting Place: In front of the Found Hotel, 78 Charles Street South, Boston, MA 02116  
 Cost: \$20 (cash or check); no advance booking. Questions? [paul.lewis@bc.edu](mailto:paul.lewis@bc.edu)

**Thursday May 22, 2025  
1:00 - 2:20**

**Conversation Roundtable: Starting an Author Society**  
Organized by the Washington Irving Society

Roundtable: Conversation between Tracy Hoffman and Anna Beaudry

**Thursday May 22, 2025  
4:00 pm – 6:15 pm (Staffordshire)**

**ALA Graduate Student Organization & Information Session and  
Reception/ Mixer**

All graduate students are invited to join us for the organizational meeting for the formation of a Graduate Student Organization for the ALA.

**Thursday May 22, 2025  
6:15 pm – 7:45 pm (Essex Ballroom South)**

**Opening Reception and Featured Reader  
Julia Alvarez**

**All conference attendees are cordially invited to attend the reception, reading, and book signing.**

Julia Alvarez was born in New York in 1950, but the family moved back to the Dominican Republic a few months later despite their opposition to the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo. Finding themselves in a threatening situation, they returned to Queens in 1960, where her father practiced medicine and she struggled to adjust to a new culture and a difficult language. She eventually graduated from Middlebury College and went on to take a master's degree in creative writing from Syracuse University. Since then she has taught at a number of institutions before becoming a professor of creative writing at Middlebury. Her husband is an ophthalmologist, and together they live on a farm in Vermont.

She published *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, a celebrated story cycle, in 1991 followed four years later by her most famous novel, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, a stirring account of the brutal murder of the three Mirabel sisters in the Dominican Republic because of their political resistance to the Trujillo regime. The book sold more than 100,000 copies and won a score of literary awards including the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1995. In 2024 she published *The Cemetery of Untold Stories*, set in the Dominican Republic and New York. Her autobiographical *Something to Declare* contains entertaining reflections on her life and work.

**Friday, May 23, 2025**  
**2:00-3:00 pm**  
**(Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge)**  
**The Howells Archive**

The William Dean Howells Society is pleased to announce a special event to be held at Harvard University's Houghton Library in conjunction with the 36th Annual Conference of the American Literature Association.

Please join us for this rare opportunity to view a selection of documents from the Houghton's Howells archive. The library's collection includes book manuscripts, unpublished works, personal belongings, and a substantial collection of Howells's correspondence with friends, family, Presidents of the United States, and colleagues such as Mark Twain, Henry James, Stephen Crane, Theodore Dreiser, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Mary Wilkins Freeman, Hamlin Garland, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Bret Harte, Sarah Orne Jewett, Frank Norris, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and many others.

Letters from Mark Twain, Henry James, and Edith Wharton, among others, will be on display, as well as the complete manuscript of *The Quality of Mercy* (1891).

Space is limited for this special exhibit. For this reason, and so we can plan accordingly, we ask that all those who are interested in attending RSVP to Andrew Ball ([andrew\\_ball@emerson.edu](mailto:andrew_ball@emerson.edu)). All are welcome.

Travelling from the Westin in Copley Square to Harvard University is relatively quick and easy. Detailed directions will be provided to attendees prior to the event.

The William Dean Howells Society is pleased to offer this hands-on opportunity to examine treasured American literary artifacts. Pre-register today to reserve your place!

**Friday, May 23, 2025**  
**6:00 pm – 9:00 pm (Staffordshire)**

**African American Literature and Culture Society**  
**Reading and Award Ceremony**

Presentation of the Stephen E. Henderson Award for Outstanding Achievement in Poetry  
to Tracy K. Smith

Presentation of the Darwin T. Turner Award  
to Farah Jasmine Griffin

Presentation of the Octavia E. Butler Award in Memory of Consuela Francis  
to Shirley Moody-Turner

See Inside Program for Complete Details

**Saturday, May 24, 2025  
4:00 pm – 6:15 pm (Adams)**

**A staged reading of *Inheritors*, a play by Susan Glaspell, organized by  
the International Susan Glaspell Society.**

This session presents a staged reading of Glaspell's play (abridged by Cheryl Black) with a post-show discussion to follow.

When Susan Glaspell's *Inheritors* premiered in 1921, America was in the throes of a postwar conservative backlash, as the "100 % Americanism" movement fostered attitudes of isolationism, nationalism, xenophobia, racism, and the suppression of free speech. The play centers on the impact of the movement on a college campus – students from India deported for anti-colonial activism, a student imprisoned for violating the Espionage Act, a professor pressured to keep quiet on political issues, and the political awakening of the play's central character. Described by actor/director Eva Le Gallienne as a "burning challenge to America," the play remains profoundly relevant today.

**Saturday, May 24, 2025  
4:00 – 6:15 pm (Great Republic)**

**Film Adaptation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Blithedale Romance***

This presentation discusses the process of cinematic adaptation involved in making the first feature film based on Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Blithedale Romance* including an exclusive first look at several scenes from the project, which is slated for release in 2026. The film is part of a series of previously unadapted classics being brought to the screen by Eternity Box Films in collaboration with literary scholars.

Discussion to follow.

**Saturday, May 24, 2025  
6:00 pm – 7:15 pm (Staffordshire)**

**Closing Reception**

**All conference participants are invited to attend**



**Sunday, May 25, 2025**  
**1:00 pm**  
**The House of the Seven Gables Annual Lecture**

The Nathaniel Hawthorne Society invites members of the American Literature Association to join us for the House of the Seven Gables Annual Lecture

Robert Levine  
"Haunted Houses: *The House of the Seven Gables* and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*."

Location:  
The House of the Seven Gables  
115 Derby St, Salem, MA 01970

In order to make it possible for ALA members to attend and have a maritime experience, we have arranged group pricing on the ferry from Boston to Salem and back on Sunday, May 25. Tickets can be purchased at the following link:

URL for Paypal: <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/SJS5TL5BFSJZU>

We look forward to welcoming you to Salem at the conclusion of the ALA conference in Boston!

Schedule:

Ferry departs from Boston (1 Long Wharf) 11:45 am  
Gather at House of the Seven Gables for light lunch foods 12:30-1:00 pm  
Hawthorne Society Annual Lecture by Bob Levine 1:00-2:00 pm  
Tours of the Nathaniel Hawthorne Birthplace and Custom House available 2:30-3:45 pm (or free time in Salem)  
Ferry departs Salem 4:00 pm

**Wednesday May 21, 2025**  
**Opening Registration Reception**  
**8:00 pm – 10:00 pm**  
**Essex Foyer, 3rd Floor Westin**

**Drop by to collect your badge and program and stay for a beverage if you would like as we kick off the 36th Annual American Literature Association Conference.**  
**Welcome to Boston!**

**Thursday, May 22, 2025**  
**8:30 am – 9:50 am**

**Session 1-A Legacies of Resistance and Remembering (Empire)**

Organized by the African American Literature and Culture Society

Chair: Justin Smith, Randolph-Macon College

1. "Pompey Prall: An Enslaved Witness of Revolutionary Staten Island and a Freedman in Abolitionist Newark," Shawn Thomson, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
2. "Visualizing the Case for Reparations through Digital Humanities," Wendy Liz Martinez, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice

**Session 1-B Teaching with Lydia Maria Child: Multi-Modal Lessons in the Age of TikTok (Helicon)**

Organized by the Lydia Maria Child Society

Chair: Melissa Gniadek, University of Toronto

1. "Lydia Maria Child, Indigeneity, and Tourist Rhetoric," Allison Siehnel, University of Buffalo
2. "Reading the 1825 Jubilee of the American Revolution in 2025: Lydia Maria Child and James Fenimore Cooper's Advocacy to Preserve the American Republic," Christopher Allan Black, University of Memphis

**Session 1-C "This loved Philology": Parsing Emily Dickinson (Great Republic)**

Organized by The Emily Dickinson International Society

Chair: Nicole Panizza, Coventry University (UK)

1. "Emily Dickinson Meets AI," Margaret Freeman, Myrfield Institute for Cognition and the Arts
2. "A Call for Collaboration: Toward a New Concordance to the Letters of Emily Dickinson," Judith Scholes, St Mark's and Corpus Christi Colleges at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, and Cheryl Weaver, City Honors School in Buffalo, NY
3. "Dickinson and the Other," Shira Wolosky, Hebrew University (Emerita)

### **Session 1-D Postwar Periodicals I – Trans/Poetry/Poetics (Courier)**

Organized by the Postwar Area Literature Group

Chair: Emily Banks, Franklin College

1. “‘A World of Our Own’: Periodicals, Poetry, & Trans Counterpublics,” Anna James, Franklin College
2. “Modernist Reception and the Avant-Garde Press,” Marianna Hagler, University of Michigan
3. “‘THIS IS A PAID ADVERTISEMENT’: Advertising Poetics in *Yugen*,” Lily Middleton-Mansell, University of Oxford
4. “The Cross-Media and Transnational Genealogy of Decadence/Camp: from Fin-de-siècle European Decadence, Postwar American Camp Novels and Films, to Contemporary Japanese Shojo Manga Magazines,” Motomu Yoshioka, University of Utah

### **Session 1-E Jamesian Beginnings I: Becoming Henry James (Essex North-East)**

Organized by the Henry James Society

Chair: Ruth Bernard Yeazell, Yale University

1. “The Rome that Nora and James Explore,” Sonoko Saito, University of Kitakyushu
2. “No Sense of an Ending: Finding New Beginnings in James’s Drama,” Dee MacCormack, Independent Scholar
3. “‘The Perfect Mixture of Genius and Chill Penury’: Parentage, Patronage, and Transcendental Legacies in ‘The Coxon Fund,’” Sarah Wadsworth, Marquette University

### **Session 1-F Toni Morrison and Eulogy (Essex North-West)**

Organized by the Toni Morrison Society.

Chair: Emmanuelle Andres, La Rochelle Université, France

1. “Bringing Black History Home: Archival Healing in Toni Morrison’s *The Black Book* (1974),” Maddie Lacy, Rice University
2. “Speculatively Rooted: The Ancestor as Supernatural Foundation,” Britt Threatt, University of the South (Sewanee)
3. “Between Memory and Narrative: ‘Recitatif’s’ Interpretive Demands,” Kiran Lam-Saili, Harvard University

### **Session 1-G Early Career Scholars: New Directions I (St. George A)**

Organized by the American Humor Studies Association

Moderator: Teresa Prados-Torreira, Columbia College, Chicago

1. “Brutal Laughter: Complex Game and Emotional Engagement in ‘A Good Man is Hard to Find,’” Noel Stanger, Duquesne University
2. “Unsettling Laughter: Tracing the Use of Dark Humor in *Courage the Cowardly Dog*,” Arshiya Kausar, University of South Carolina
3. “‘Soy Darks’: Meme as Latine Aesthetic in Los Espookys,” Hernan Sanchez Garcia, Tufts University
4. “Creative/Critical Writing Interventions for Humor Studies,” Thaïs Miller, University of Central Arkansas

**Session 1-H New Perspectives on Religious Thought (St. George B)**

Chair: Ray Horton, Murray State University

1. "Thomas Pynchon's Heresiarchy: The Nature and Ethics of the Other in Pynchon's Fiction," Luke Ferretter, Baylor University
2. "Francis Harper and Postbellum Black America," Demetrius Minnick-Tucker, Georgia State University
3. "Phenomenology of the Sacred in a Poisoned World: Mary Oliver, Craig Santos Perez, and Hegel," Ryan Poll, Northeastern University

**Session 1-I Meals and Metaphor (St. George C)**

Chair: Steven Frye, California State University, Bakersfield

1. "Breaking Bread: Finding Fellowship through Food and Communion in Frederick Douglass's *My Bondage and My Freedom*," Caroline Bivins, University of Central Arkansas
2. "The Cowpea in Radicle Ecologies," Kathleen Burns, Oklahoma State University
3. "Moving the Mountain, *Herland*, and Vegan Politics in a Future Without Animals," Dan Abitz, Emory University
4. "Aesthetics of Consumption in *The Road*," Amy May Fischili, The University of Adelaide

**Session 1-J Teaching Cooper Today: A Roundtable (Parliament)**

Organized by the James Fenimore Cooper Society

Moderators: Stephen Carl Arch, Michigan State University and Keat Murray, Pennsylvania Western University

1. Steven Harthorn, Concordia University, Chicago
2. Luis A. Iglesias, University of Southern Mississippi
3. Donna Richardson, Emerita from St. Mary's College of Maryland
4. Anna Scannavini, Independent Scholar

**Thursday, May 22, 2025**  
**10:00 am – 11:20 am**

**Session 2-A Resisting Limitations (Courier)**

Chair: Michaela Smith, Georgia Southern University

1. "Blank, Scarred, or Inflated: A Paranoid Framework and Representations of Black Bodies in *The Shadow Knows*," Eunyoung Cho, Texas A&M University
2. "'Irregularities' and 'Irregulars' as Multilevel Puns in Thomas Pynchon's *Against the Day*," Lovorka Gruić Grmuša, University of Rijeka, Croatia
3. "The Journey Home to Ibo Landing," Thomas Forrest, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

### **Session 2-B Ten Years After: Amiri Baraka (Helicon)**

Organized by The Amiri Baraka Society

Chair: Jean-Philippe Marcoux, Université Laval

1. "Cite to Incite: Baraka, 1968, and Poetry as Living Language," Letizia Mariani, University of California, Irvine
2. "The Literary Lives of Amiri Baraka," William J. Harris, University of Kansas, Emeritus
3. "New Black Music and an Ethnomusicology of the African American Avant-Garde," Christopher Bakriges, Massachusetts College of Art and Design.

### **Session 2-C The Work of Nineteenth-Century US Poetry (Empire)**

Organized by the Society for the Study of American Poetry

Chair: Eliza Richards, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

1. "A Way to Talk about Greed: Enslaved Poiesis and 'Lucre Trash,'" JP Sloan, Rutgers University
2. "'Giving Back the Flower': Mementoes, Memorabilia, and the Disavowal of Memory-Work in Sarah Piatt's Poetry," Kylan Rice, University of Missouri
3. "The Work of Dickinson's Art," Zoë Pollak, The Robbins House Museum of Concord's African American History

Respondent: Eliza Richards

### **Session 2-D Comparative Approaches to Octavia E. Butler's Fiction (Essex North-East)**

Organized by the Octavia E. Butler Literary Society

Chair: Kendra R. Parker, Georgia Southern University

1. "Trans\* Epistemology in Octavia E. Butler's *Wild Seed*: Contrasting Approaches to Gender Fluidity and Embodied Knowledge," Josephine Defaye, UC Berkeley School of Education
2. "The Human and Xenogenesis," Mary Moore, Ohio University
3. "Reverberations: Epiphenomenal Time in Octavia E. Butler's *Kindred* and Jesmyn Ward's *Let Us Descend*," Victoria Moten, Howard University

### **Session 2-E Faulkner and Fascism (Great Republic)**

Organized by the William Faulkner Society

Chair: Rebecca Nisetich, University of Southern Maine

1. "Faulkner, Pontecorvo, and Inconsistent Imposition," Alexander Miller, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
2. "Detectives Have Hitherto Only Interpreted the World: Exception and Narration in *Knight's Gambit*," Trent Anderson, University of Amsterdam
3. "His Fabulous Immeasurable Camelot: The Square of Earth and the Possibility of History in William Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!*," Luke Folk, SUNY Buffalo

### **Session 2-F New Perspectives on David Foster Wallace (St. George A)**

Organized by the International David Foster Wallace Society

Chair: Danielle Ely, Dutchess Community College

1. "In Search of the Jungian Self in Don Gately: Challenging Psychoanalytic Readings of *Infinite Jest*," Jack Barton, University of Glasgow
2. "Clichés and Kenyon: Authenticity in 'Good Old Neon' and *This is Water*," Anthony Raffin, St. Edward High School
3. "Using Art to Talk about Art: Shklovsky, Gass, Wallace and the Aesthetic Structures of their Literary Manifestos," Katherine Sinyavin, UC Berkeley

### **Session 2-G Gender and Sexuality (St. George D)**

Chair: Savannah Barrow, Georgia Southern University

1. "Making Straight Strange in Randall Kenan's *Let the Dead Bury Their Dead*," Deborah Wilson, Arkansas Tech University
2. "Americans and Americana in Patricia Highsmith's *The Price of Salt*," Ally Barber, Southern Methodist University
3. "A Treatise on New Womanhood: Charlotte Perkins Gilman's 'If I Were a Man,'" Deborah De Rosa, Northern Illinois University
4. "*Lolita*, Adaptation, and Queer Desire," Amber Weinstock, University of Connecticut

### **Session 2-H James Fenimore Cooper and Narrating History: A Bicentennial Commemoration of *Lionel Lincoln: or, The Leaguer of Boston* (1825) (Parliament)**

Organized by the James Fenimore Cooper Society

Chair: Steven Harthorn, Concordia University Chicago

1. "Loyalty to British Aristocracy or Loyalty to American Democracy? Major Lionel Lincoln's Counterrevolutionary threat to Democracy in an Enlightenment Republic," Christopher Allan Black, The University of Memphis
2. "Paradoxical Patriots in *The Pilot* (1824) and *Lionel Lincoln* (1825): James Fenimore Cooper's Early Revolutionary War Novels," Luis A. Iglesias, University of Southern Mississippi

### **Session 2-I Howells and Others (Essex North-Center)**

Organized by the William Dean Howells Society

Chair: Andrew Ball, Emerson College

1. "Realism in Logic, Realism in Literature, or, Distant Connections Between Howells and Peirce," Evan Neely, Pratt Institute
2. "Howells's *Altruria* Stories as Intertextual Utopian Discourse," Harry Hall, Harvard University

Respondent: Max Chapnick, New-York Historical Society

### **Session 2-J Recasting American Literature through the Federal Writers' Project (Staffordshire)**

Organizers and Moderators: JJ Butts, Simpson College and Sara Rutkowski, CUNY: Kingsborough Community College

1. "Bread and Song: The FWP and Labor Lore," Jerrold Hirsch, Truman State University
2. "Worker Writers: The FWP, the Cultural Front, and History from Below," Deborah Mutnick, Long Island University
3. "Before and After the NM-FWP: Some Remarks on the Literary and Biographical Contours of Aurora Lucero White," Diana Noreen Rivera, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
4. "Eddie Shimano and Seunghwa Ahn: Two Asian American contributors to the Federal Writers Project," Greg Robinson, Université du Québec À Montréal
5. "Sterling A. Brown Explains the FWP to SNCC," John Saillant, Western Michigan University
6. "Asian American Writers in the FWP: A Case Study of Gerald Chan Sieg," James Sun, UNC Berkeley

### **Session 2-K Richard Wright's Contributions to Postcolonial Studies (North Star)**

Organized by the Richard Wright Society

Chair: Donald Kizza-Brown, Brown University

1. "A Gadfly of Western Imperialism: Imperatives of Indignation and Revolt in Richard Wright," Augustine A. Edung, University of Calabar
2. "Richard Wright and the 'Special Claim' of Zionism," Nathaniel Mills, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
3. "*Black Boy*: The Formulation of Richard Wright's idea of 'Black Power,'" Charles Allen Ross, Allegheny College

**Thursday, May 22, 2025**  
**11:30 am – 12:50 pm**

### **Session 3-A Early Career Scholars: New Directions II (St. George A)**

Organized by the American Humor Studies Association

Moderator: Jim Caron, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

1. "David R. Locke and Petroleum V. Nasby: Humor, Politics, and Race, 1862-1867," Edward Charnley, City University of New York Graduate Center
2. "'Most people have heard of Mrs. Buchanan': Harper's, Asylum Tourism, and the Limits of Caricature," Elizabeth Harris, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
3. "Theatricality Cracking in *Animal Crackers* and After," Garreth O'Brien, University of California, Berkeley
4. "But Where Is the Savior?: Advancing Humor Models into the Modern Age," Max Sonin, University of Iowa

### **Session 3-B Ten Years After: Amiri Baraka (Part II) (Helicon)**

Organized by The Amiri Baraka Society

Chair: Aldon Lynn Nielsen, The Pennsylvania State University, Emeritus

1. "Leave England Headed West/You Arrive/in Newark: Amiri Baraka and Black Internationalism Localism," James Smethurst, University of Massachusetts Amherst
2. "In the Key of B: Tyrone Williams's Amiri Baraka," Jean-Philippe Marcoux, Université Laval
3. "Dutchman's Rewriting of *A Raisin in the Sun*: Domesticity, Violence, and Aesthetics in Black Drama," John Ciampi, Rutgers University

### **Session 3-C Cormac McCarthy I: The Body of Work (Empire)**

Organized by the Cormac McCarthy Society

Chair: Steven Frye, California State University, Bakersfield

1. "The Legacy of Lester Ballard: Community, Liminality, and (D)evolution from Cormac McCarthy to Ray Pollock," Michael Martin, Stephen F. Austin State University
2. "Blood Money: States of Indebtedness in Cormac McCarthy's Fiction," Mike Kleynman, Duke University
3. "Weapons and Violence in the Age of Mechanical Extermination: Killing in Late McCarthy," Scott Yarbrough, Charleston Southern University

### **Session 3-D Roundtable: The 40th Anniversary of Judith Fetterley's *Provisions: A Reader from 19th-Century American Women* and Its Enduring Impact (Great Republic)**

Organized by the Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society

Moderator: Jill Anderson, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

1. Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University
2. Lucinda Damon-Bach, Salem State University, CMSOL Editor
3. Rita Bode, Trent University (Canada)
4. Susan K. Harris, Emerita, University of Kansas
5. Karen L. Kilcup, University of North Carolina-Greensboro
6. Wendy Martin, Claremont Graduate University



### **Session 3-E Pauline Hopkins on the Page: At the Intersection of Periodical Networks and Fictional Worlds (Essex North-East)**

Jointly Organized by the Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society and The Research Society for American Periodicals

Chair: Sarah Salter, Emory University

1. "Seasons and Serialization in *Of One Blood*," Laura Clarke, Northeastern University
2. "Pauline Hopkins's Subversive Plagiarism in 'General Washington: A Christmas Story,'" Sarah Clere, Independent Scholar
3. "Between Interracial Positioning and Transracial Identity: Booker T. Washington's and Pauline Hopkins' Depictions of Black-Indigenous Relations," Kieran Sommer, University of Heidelberg
4. "Hopkins on Desire," Marlas Yvonne Whitley, New York University

Respondent: Edlie Wong, University of Maryland, College Park

### **Session 3-F Robert Frost and the Precarity of the Local (Courier)**

Organized by The Robert Frost Society

Chair: Neal Dolan, University of Toronto, Scarborough

1. "Home and Away: What Does Robert Frost's Poetics of Home Imply?," Jonathan Barron, University of Maine
2. "Place, Placing, Replacing (Pace): Frost and Stevens, Jars and Stones," Andrew DuBois, University of Toronto, Scarborough
3. "From Forest to Farm to Forest: Multiple Births in 'The Birthplace,'" Owen Sholes, Assumption University
4. "Robert Frost's Cosmic Connections," Ira Wells, Victoria College, University of Toronto

### **Session 3-G Shirley Jackson: Motifs and Recurrent Figures (St. George D)**

Organized by the Shirley Jackson Society

Chair: Emily Banks, Franklin College

1. "'because I said I'd tell my mother what we did': Sexual Trauma & a Fractured Psyche in Shirley Jackson's *The Bird's Nest*," Madison Harmon, University of South Carolina
2. "Shirley Jackson's Lost Girls: Fact vs. Fiction," Lori Lamothe, Quinsigamond Community College
3. "'All the significance is veiled': Fortune-Telling and Foreshadowing through the Hanged Man in T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* and Shirley Jackson's *Hangsamen*," Katie Bonevento, West Virginia University

### **Session 3-H "A step/ down and you're into it": Immersive Description in the Poetry of Amy Clampitt (Essex North-West)**

Organized by: Lara Lee Meintjes, UC Berkeley

Chair: Bethany Hicok, Williams College

1. "Accumulating and De-Accessioning, or Acts of Poetic Housekeeping," Willard Spiegelman, Southern Methodist University, Columbia University
2. "Heroic Observation and the Act of Description in the Poetry of Amy Clampitt," Finnur Windle, University of York
3. "'Perpendicular terrain': Amy Clampitt at the Axes of Lyric," Lara Lee Meintjes, UC Berkeley

### **Session 3-I The Structures of Civil (and Not-So-Civil) Society in Vonnegut and More (Parliament)**

Organized by the Kurt Vonnegut Society

Chair: Tom Hertweck, Fordham University

1. "Writing Between Apocalypses in *Cat's Cradle* and *Hiroshima*," Maeva O'Brien, Yale University
2. "Inhabiting a 'Hospitable World': Vonnegut and His Science Fiction Readers," Cathryn Piwinski, Rutgers University
3. "Lonesome No More: Anthropological Theory, Ethnographic Praxis, and Kinship Structures in the Novels of Kurt Vonnegut and Ursula K. Le Guin," Francis X. Altomare, St. Thomas University

### **Session 3-J Contemplating Place in Early American Literature (Defender)**

Organized by the Society of Early Americanists

Chair: Ben Pokross, Independent Scholar

1. "Neighborly Ethics and Place-Based Democracy in Lydia Sigourney's *Sketch of Connecticut*," Jana Tigchelaar, Marshall University
2. "'The Nets of Salvation': The Sea and the Puritan Imagination," Mackenzie Daly, Boston College
3. "Widening the Frame: Contextualizing New England in the Indo-Atlantic," Rajender Kaur, William Paterson University

### **Session 3-K Howells on Politics and Law (Essex North-Center)**

Organized by the William Dean Howells Society

Chair: Paul R. Petrie, Southern Connecticut State University

1. "Howells on the Relationship Between Culture & Politics," Andrew Donnelly, The University of Memphis
2. "Speaking For/Speaking Over: Howells, James, and the Working Poor of Realist Fiction," Andy Harper, Saint Louis University

Respondent: Christine Holbo, Arizona State University

### **Session 3-L Richard Wright: Tracing the Roots of Fascism (North Star)**

Organized by the Richard Wright Society

Chair: Nathaniel Mills, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

1. "The Principle of Hope in Wright's Depictions of the Appeal of Fascism," Anthony Dawahare, California State University, Northridge
2. "The Real Bigger Thomas: Wright's First Encounter with Fascism's Appeal," Donald Kizza-Brown, Brown University
3. "Dispossessed and Disinherited: What We Can Learn from Fascist Prototypes in *Native Son*, 'Black Hope,' and *Pagan Spain*," Deborah Mutnick, Long Island University
4. "Saving Capitalism...with Racial Cannibalism? The Lost Satire of Richard Wright's 'Modest Proposal,'" Joseph G. Ramsey, University of Massachusetts Boston

### **Session 3-M Stoicism in American Literature and Culture (St. George C)**

Organized by Greg Eiselein and LuElla D'Amico

Chair: Karyn M. Valerius, Hofstra University

1. "Anne Bradstreet: Stoicism in Puritan Garb," John J. Navin, Coastal Carolina University
2. "Stoic Joy: Emerson, Whitman, and U.S. Literature," Gregory Eiselein, Kansas State University
3. "Skipping Along the Yellow Brick Road: Stoic Joy in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*," LuElla D'Amico, University of the Incarnate Word

**Thursday, May 22, 2025**

**1:00 pm – 2:20 pm**

### **Session 4-A Historicizing the Information Wars: Literary and Political Critique in an Era of Disinformation (Empire)**

Organized by the American Literature Society

Chair: RaShall M. Brackney, George Mason University

1. "Policing the Narrative: Disinformation and the Political Construction of Black Criminality," RaShall M. Brackney, George Mason University
2. "'An Even More Powerful Weapon': The Black Panther Party, Media, and the Politics of Copyright," Richard E. Purcell, The University of Mississippi
3. "'Birthing a Nation's New Propaganda': Thomas Dixon Jr., the KKK, and the Rise of the Information Wars," Stefan M. Wheelock, George Mason University

### **Session 4-B Henry Adams in Company (Courier)**

Organized by the Henry Adams Society

Chair: John Orr, University of Portland

1. "'Quite the Most Remarkable Woman I Ever Met': Isabella Stewart Gardner and Henry Adams in Paris," Natalie Dykstra, Hope College
2. "Clover Adams, Henry James, and the American Regime," Natalie Fuehrer Taylor, Skidmore College
3. "From the Transpacific Voyage to the Transcultural Experience: Henry Adams and Ariitaimai or the Bostonian Dynast and the Tahitian Aristocrat," Florent Atem, University of French Polynesia

### **Session 4-C Memory and Loss (St George D)**

Chair: Savannah Barrow, Georgia Southern University

1. "Wardens of the Afterwards: Stellification in Recent HIV / AIDS Poetry," Sally Connolly, University of Houston
2. "Reading Phillis Wheatley in Burying Grounds," John Hanson, Independent Scholar
3. "Burroughs to Borne: American Literary Elegies for the Anthropocene," Lejla Kucukalic, American University of Sharjah
4. "Fictionalizing the Holodomor in Ukrainian American Literature: Katherine Marsh's *The Lost Year* and the Transmission of Cultural Memory," Mariya Shymchyshyn, Kyiv National Linguistics University / University of Manitoba

**Session 4-D The Best of All Possible Words? Making Selections for the Library of America's Margaret Fuller: Collected Writings: Roundtable Session featuring the editors of *Margaret Fuller: Collected Writings* (Helicon)**

Organized by the Margaret Fuller Society

Chair: Jana Argersinger, Independent Scholar

1. Brigitte Bailey, University of New Hampshire
2. Noelle Baker, Independent Scholar
3. Megan Marshall, Emerson College

**Session 4-E Gender and Antebellum American Literature (Essex North-East)**

Organized by The William Gilmore Simms Society

Chair: Sam Lackey, Great Basin College

1. "The Performance of This Precious Duty': William Gilmore Simms and the Reconstruction of White Womanhood," John Miller, Longwood University
2. "Perilous Passages in the Slave Girl's Narrative: Respectability and 'Soft Surveillance' in Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*," Angelique Bassard, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
3. "William Gilmore Simms' Martial South in *The Yemassee*: Discontent, Wayward Masculinity, and Martial Containment," Matthew Harrington, University of Tennessee Southern

**Session 4-F Toni Morrison's "Recitatif": A Roundtable (Essex North-West)**

Organized by the Toni Morrison Society.

Chair: Tracyann Williams, Fordham University

1. "Toni Morrison's 'Recitatif' (1983) and the Trope of Two Women in American Literature," Samantha English, Northwestern University
2. "What the Author Does Not Know: 'Recitatif' as Toni Morrison's 'Controlled Wilderness,'" Hsiu-Chuan Lee, National Normal Taiwan University
3. "Playing Outside: Toni Morrison's Use of Music as Deterministic Disruption in 'Recitatif' and *Jazz*," Emily Grace, Catholic University of America
4. "The Sound of Blackness: 'Recitatif' and Hip-Hop," Queen D. Scott, Brown University

**Session 4-G New Perspectives on Hemingway and Faulkner (North Star)**

Chair: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University

1. "Hemingway and Gellhorn," Christopher B. Daly, Boston University
2. "The Impossible: From the Symbolic to the Real in Hemingway's 'In Another Country,'" Lisa Narbeshuber, Acadia University and Lance La Rocque, Acadia University
3. "Defending the Train Wrecks," Kira Compton, Bosie State University

#### **Session 4-H Conversation Roundtable: Starting an Author Society (Staffordshire)**

Organized by the Washington Irving Society

Roundtable: Conversation between Tracy Hoffman and Anna Beaudry

#### **Session 4-I Round Table: Continuing Bonds of Communion: Remembering Hal Bush and Jonathan McGregor (Parliament)**

Organized by the American Religion and Literature Society

Moderator: Ray Horton, Murray State University

1. Andrew Ball, Emerson College
2. Kenyon Gradert, Samford University
3. Hannah Wakefield, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga
4. Joseph Csicsila, Eastern Michigan University
5. Brian Yothers, St. Louis University
6. Ray Horton, Murray State University

#### **Session 4-J James Baldwin and Theater (Defender)**

Organized by *James Baldwin Review* and the African American Literature and Culture Society

Chair: Justin A. Joyce, Washington University in St. Louis

1. “‘Outside of slogans and flags and programs’: *Blues for Mister Charlie* in the Classroom,” Prentiss Clark, University of South Dakota
2. “Baldwin’s Haunted Ghosts (from Classical Theater),” Patrice Rankine, University of Chicago
3. “‘That Narrow Ribbon of Light’: James Baldwin on Broadway,” Frank Leon Roberts, Amherst College

#### **Session 4-K Popular Fiction (St. George A)**

Chair: Rene Trevino, California State University at Long Beach

1. “Geopolitical Fictions: Frank Stockton, Roy Norton, and the Problem of European Peace Before 1914,” Gordon Fraser, University of Manchester
2. “‘Well Read’: (Re)Reading *Forever Amber*,” Maria Kane, Washington University

**Thursday, May 22, 2025**  
**2:30 pm – 3:50 pm**

**Session 5-A    *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* at 150 (Empire)**

Organized by The Mark Twain Circle

Chair: Joseph Csicsila, Eastern Michigan University

1. "Tom and Becky, Sitting in a Tree Cave: Romance, Love, and Sex in Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*," John Bird, Winthrop University
2. "The Necessity of Tom Sawyer in Louise Erdrich's Fictions of Indigenous Childhood," Christine Holbo, Arizona State University
3. "*Tom Sawyer*: Comparing Mark Twain's Novel To His Play," Don Pellegrino, Independent Scholar

**Session 5-B    Jamesian Beginnings II: Setting the Scene (Essex North-West)**

Organized by the Henry James Society

Chair: Ruth Bernard Yeazell, Yale University

1. "Henry James and the Art of Dramatic Openings," Sarah Chambre, University College London
2. "Setting the Stage in *The Europeans*," Leonardo Buonomo, University of Trieste
3. "Drawing the Circle: The First Chapter of *The Tragic Muse*," Richard W. Hayes, Independent Scholar

**Session 5-C    Created Spaces, Created Voices (Courier)**

Chair: Ghazal Nessari Poortak, University of Rhode Island

1. "Going the Distance with William Craft in *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom*," Andrea Frankwitz, Gordon College
2. "The Making of a Moral Woman: Literary Aesthetics in Susan Ertz's *The Philosopher's Daughter* and Tezer Özlü's *Cold Nights of Childhood*," Begüm Tuğlu Atamer, Ege University, Turkey
3. "Beyond 'Partial Truths': On Gary Snyder's *Passage Through India* from the Perspective of Poetics of Writing Culture," Sheng Yu, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing

**Session 5-D    Teaching Women Writers' Edited Texts: New Pedagogical Approaches to Feminist, Anti-Racist Recovery Work (Helicon)**

Organized by the Margaret Fuller Society

Chair: Mollie Barnes, University of South Carolina Beaufort

1. "Putting Together an Anthology of American Women Writers for a Trade Press," Arielle Zibrak, University of Wyoming
2. "Radical Feminism and Spiritual Awakenings in Lolly Willowses," Lejla Marijam Ibrahimbegovic, Oglethorpe University
3. "Representation Through Conversation: Pairing Diverse Women Writers in Class Discussions," Leslie Eckel, Suffolk University
4. "Margaret's Conversations in the 21st Century: Creating Literary Community Online (And Learning How to Avoid Trolls)," Tamara Rose, Transcendental Concord

**Session 5-E    Ethan Hawke's *Wildcat*: A Roundtable Discussion (Essex North-East)**

Organized by The Flannery O'Connor Society

Chair: Rachel Bryan, University of Tennessee

1. Angela Alaimo O'Donnell, Fordham University
2. Kathleen Lipovski-Helal, University of Texas-Austin
3. Dave Wehner, Mount St. Mary's University
4. Matt Bryant Cheney, University of Tennessee

**Session 5-F    New Approaches to Stephen Crane (St. George D)**

Sponsored by the Society for the Study of American Naturalism

Chair: Adam H. Wood, Valdosta State University

1. "Sounding Stephen Crane." Justin Tackett, North Carolina State University
2. "Seekers in the Hands of an Angry God: Stephen Crane's Poetry and Apostate Faith." Steve Frye, California State University at Bakersfield

Respondent: Adam H. Wood, Valdosta State University

**Session 5-G    Sylvia Plath: Process and Influence (Great Republic)**

Organizer and Chair: Cara Erdheim Kilgallen, Sacred Heart University

1. "Ruth and Sylvia," Paul Alexander, Hunter College
2. "Kicking the Door of Fame: Sylvia Plath in Boston, 1958-59," Heather Clark, Independent Scholar
3. "Words into the Web-Threads: Sylvia Plath's Revisions," Amanda Golden, New York Institute of Technology

**Session 5-H    The Harlem Renaissance 100 Years Later (Parliament)**

Organized by the African American Literature and Culture Society

Chair: Jean-Philippe Marcoux, Université Laval

1. "The Eyes Have Seen It: Seeing Race in Jean Toomer's *Cane*," Justin Smith, Randolph-Macon College
2. "'Louder and higher and lower and wider': Channeling Queer Black Noise in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*," Cam MacDonald, University of Toronto
3. "On the Train to Boston: *Saturday Evening Quill* at the Margins of the Renaissance," Amardeep Singh, Lehigh University

### **Session 5-I Political Washington Irving (North Star)**

Organized by the Washington Irving Society

Chair: Tracy Hoffman, Baylor University

1. "Washington Irving's Literary, Political, and Diplomatic Spheres of Influence: A Performance Perspective," John Dennis Anderson, Emerson College
2. "Democratic States of Confusion in 'Rip Van Winkle,'" Daniel Diez Couch, US Air Force Academy
3. "The Diplomatic Uses of 'Logocracy': Washington Irving and the Ekphrasis of Political Representation," Klara Rebecca Fuchs, University of Cambridge

### **Session 5-J Thirty Years of The Elizabeth Bishop Phenomenon (Defender)**

Organized by the Elizabeth Bishop Society

Moderator: Scott Challener, Hampton University

Roundtable:

1. Lloyd Schwartz, University of Massachusetts Boston (emeritus)
2. Bethany Hicok, Williams College
3. Arlo Haskell, Director of the Key West Literary Seminar
4. Alyse Knorr, Regis University
5. Heather Treseler, Worcester State University

### **Session 5-K Innovative Approaches to Teaching Vonnegut at Many Levels (Essex North-Center)**

Organized by the Kurt Vonnegut Society

Chair: Cole Lowman, University at Buffalo

1. "Mustard Gas and Roses: War, Trauma, and Time Travel in the AP Literature Curriculum," John M. Fredericks, Arizona State University
2. "Inertial Vonnegut: Teaching against the Post-Pandemic Drag," Josh Botvin, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
3. "Teaching and (Mis)Reading Vonnegut's Satire," Julie Bowman, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
4. "But Kurt, Mary, and Bernard Are All Long Gone Now: Rereading and Reteaching *Slaughterhouse-Five* with Ryan North and Albert Monteys," Gerry Canavan, Marquette University

### **Session 5-L A Rose among the Thistles: A Sesquicentennial Consideration of Louisa May Alcott's *Eight Cousins* (St. George B)**

Organized by the Louisa May Alcott Society

Chairs: Roberta Seelinger Trites, Emerita, Illinois State University and Anne K. Phillips, Kansas State University

1. "My Hygienic Model: *Eight Cousins* as Alcott's Model of Health-Based Feminine Maturation," Ariel Little, University of British Columbia
2. "Adventures in Education: Louisa May Alcott's *Eight Cousins* and the Importance of Risk, Unmediated Experience, and Play in Education," Anna Dawahare, California State University Northridge
3. "'Not Quite Like Other Girls'? Exceptionalism and the Heroine in *Eight Cousins* and *Rose in Bloom*," Katherine Magyarody, Simmons University



**Thursday, May 22, 2025**  
**4:00 pm – 5:20 pm**

**Session 6-A Form and Popular Rhetorics in American Religious Literature**  
**Organized by the American Religion and Literature Society (Great Republic)**  
 Chair: Andrew Ball, Emerson College

1. "Spiritual Form in Elizabeth Stuart Phelps's *The Gates Ajar*, Elizabeth Bailey, University of Tulsa
2. "Carl Sagan's One, True God: Science and Natural Theology in *Contact*," Ryan Siemers, Southern Utah University
3. "A 'Noon-day Demon': The Catholic Sin of Acedia in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*," Donna Sanders, Columbia University

**Session 6-B Beats and Morocco: Insiders and Outsiders (Helicon)**  
 Organized by the Beat Studies Association  
 Chair: Ronna Johnson, Tufts University

1. "Ira Cohen and the Making of *Gnaoua*," Jane Falk, Retired, University of Akron
2. "*Real Red Fezzes*: Jack Kerouac in Tangier," Jimmy Fazzino, University of Maine
3. "Brion Gysin/The Beats/Tangier," Allen Hibbard, Professor Emeritus, Middle Tennessee State University

**Session 6-C RSAP Book Prize Panel (Empire)**  
 Organized by the Research Society for American Periodicals  
 Chair: Cynthia Patterson, University of South Florida

1. "Circulating Jim Crow: *The Saturday Evening Post* and the War on Black Modernity," Adam McKible, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York
2. "Tasting and Testing Books: *Good Housekeeping*, Popular Modernism, and Middlebrow Reading," Amy Blair, Marquette University
3. "Lesbian Porn Magazines and the Sex Wars: Reimagining Sex, Power and Identity," Elizabeth Groeneveld, Old Dominion University

**Session 6-D Transcription Workshop on the Letters of Catharine Maria Sedgwick Digital Edition (St. George A)**

Organized by the Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society  
 Chair: Lucinda Damon-Bach, Salem State University, CMSOL Editor

Workshop Leaders (attendees should bring a laptop):

1. Patricia Kalayjian, California State University Dominguez Hills, Project Director
2. Jill Anderson, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, CMSOL Contributing Editor
3. Mickey McGrath, Salem State University, CMSOL Transcriber
4. Leander Murphy, Salem State University, CMSOL Transcriber

### **Session 6-E Roundtable: Frances E. W. Harper Through the Ages (St. George D)**

Organizers: Marlas Yvonne Whitley and M. Giulia Fabi

Moderator: Marlas Yvonne Whitley, New York University

1. "Harper in the Context of Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers," Arielle Zibrank, University of Wyoming
2. "The Harper200 Initiative and Black Feminist Curatorial Practice," Brandi Locke, Pennsylvania State University
3. "Frances E.W. Harper's Black Feminist Utopian Legacy," M. Giulia Fabi, University of Ferrara
4. "Harper's New Palmares and African-American Futures," Wyn Kelley, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

### **Session 6-F James Fenimore Cooper in Literary Conversation (Essex North-West)**

Organized by the James Fenimore Cooper Society

Chair: Luis A Iglesias, University of Southern Mississippi

1. "Cooper's and Poe's Pacific Projections," Caleb Doan, Francis Marion University
2. "*Uncas, or The Last of the Mohicans* (1866): A Manuscript in the Lord Chamberlain's Plays," Steven P. Harthorn, Concordia University Chicago
3. "The West Indian Creation Story: James Fenimore Cooper and William Faulkner in Conversation," Jennie J. Joiner, Keuka College

### **Session 6-G Agonistic Melville (Courier)**

Organized by the Melville Society

Chair: Daniel Couch, U.S. Air Force Academy

1. "Hope in Confidence," Emma Adler, Stanford University
2. "Melville's 'The Fiddler,' Circus, and Democracy," David Carlyon, Independent Scholar
3. "Facts Don't Care About Your Feelings: *The Confidence Man* and the Case for Post-Nihilist Literary Studies," Ashley Barnes, UT Dallas

### **Session 6-H Flannery at 100: A Birthday Convivial with Refreshments and Poetry (Essex North-Center)**

Organized by the Flannery O'Connor Society

In place of our annual business meeting, the Flannery O'Connor Society will welcome any conference attendees to this late afternoon convivial, where we will share refreshments, toast to Flannery O'Connor's centenary, and hear poetry from Patricia Ann West and Angela Alaimo O'Donnell

**Session 6-I 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Alcott (St. George B)**

Organized by the Louisa May Alcott Society

Chair: Marlowe Daly-Galeano, Lewis-Clark State College

1. "Alcott Scholarship in the Twenty-First Century," Gregory Eiselein, Kansas State University
2. "The Larch Path Project: Connecting the Landscape of Literary Work by Alcott and Hawthorne," Ariel Silver, Southern Virginia University
3. "Disability Studies Approaches to Louisa May Alcott," Karyn Valerius, Hoffstra University
4. "Adapting Alcott: *Little Women* and Twenty-First Century Materiality," Anlie Williams, Vanderbilt University
5. "Orchard House: A Legacy of Literature and History," Jan Turnquist, Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House

**Session 6-J Eudora Welty in the Twenty-First Century (Essex North-East)**

Organized by the Eudora Welty Society

Chair: Rebecca L. Harrison, University of West Georgia

1. "Virgie Rainey, Speed, and Progress," Kaitlyn Smith, Georgia Institute of Technology
2. "A Place on Earth: Elizabeth Lotte Eckhart and Beethoven," Rebecca Mark, Rutgers University
3. "High Fidelity: Eudora Welty's Caedmon Recordings," Matthew D. Sutton, Morehead State University
4. "Re-reading Eudora Welty's Photographs," Keri Watson, University of Central Florida

**Session 6-K American Literature Association Graduate Student Organization Inaugural Meeting (Staffordshire)**

Organized by the American Literature Association GSO

Chairs: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University, and April Trepagnier, Georgia Southern University

All Graduate Students are invited to attend the inaugural/organizational meeting for founding a Graduate Student Organization for the American Literature Association. After the meeting concludes, please stay for a GSO Mixer/Reception starting at 5:00 – 6:15

**Thursday, May 22, 2025****5:30 pm – 6:15 pm****Session 7-A Business Meeting: American Religion and Literature Society (Great Republic)****Session 7-B Business Meeting: American Humor Studies Association (St. George D)****Session 7-C Business Meeting: Research Society for American Periodicals (Empire)**

- Session 7-D Business Meeting: Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society (St. George A)**
- Session 7-E Business Meeting: Margaret Fuller Society (Helicon)**
- Session 7-G Business Meeting: Katherine Anne Porter Society (Defender)**
- Session 7-H Business Meeting: William Dean Howells Society (Courier)**
- Session 7-I Business Meeting: James Fenimore Cooper Society (Essex North-West)**
- Session 7-J Business Meeting: Eudora Welty Society (Essex North-East)**
- Session 7-K Business Meeting: Kurt Vonnegut Society (North Star)**
- Session 7-L Business Meeting: Louisa May Alcott Society (St. George B)**
- Session 7-M Business Meeting: Washington Irving Society (St. George C)**

**Thursday, May 22, 2025**

**5:30 pm – 6:15 pm**

**(Staffordshire)**

**Graduate Student Mixer and Meeting: The ALA Graduate Student Organization**

Chairs:

Kirk Curnutt, Troy University, ALA Executive Coordinator

April Trepagnier, Georgia Southern University, ALA Executive Assistant

The Executive Board of the American Literature Association wishes to welcome all graduate students to a reception for an engaging time of fellowship as we start conversations to begin the ALA Graduate Student Organization.

At the end of the meeting, we invite you to share a drink and light hors d'oeuvres, to relax, and to get to know others in your field. For those of you attending your first ALA event, we extend our warmest welcome. Please feel free to ask questions and to get involved. For those returners on the program, welcome back! We hope that you all have a wonderful conference.

**Thursday, May 22, 2025**  
**6:15 pm – 7:45 pm**  
**(Essex Ballroom)**  
**Opening Reception and Featured Reading**

All participants in the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual American Literature Association Conference are invited to attend the opening reception and featured reading, and book signing.

**Featured Reader: Julia Alvarez**

Julia Alvarez was born in New York in 1950, but the family moved back to the Dominican Republic a few months later despite their opposition to the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo. Finding themselves in a threatening situation, they returned to Queens in 1960, where her father practiced medicine and she struggled to adjust to a new culture and a difficult language. She eventually graduated from Middlebury College and went on to take a master's degree in creative writing from Syracuse University. Since then she has taught at a number of institutions before becoming a professor of creative writing at Middlebury. Her husband is an ophthalmologist, and together they live on a farm in Vermont.

She published *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, a celebrated story cycle, in 1991 followed four years later by her most famous novel, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, a stirring account of the brutal murder of the three Mirabel sisters in the Dominican Republic because of their political resistance to the Trujillo regime. The book sold more than 100,000 copies and won a score of literary awards including the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1995. In 2024 she published *The Cemetery of Untold Stories*, set in the Dominican Republic and New York. Her autobiographical *Something to Declare* contains entertaining reflections on her life and work.

**Friday, May 23, 2025**  
**8:30 am – 9:50 am**

**Session 8-A    Pragmatism and Literary Studies (Helicon)**

Organized by the William James Society

Chair and Respondent: Ashley C. Barnes, University of Texas, Dallas

1. "Documental Habits: Archival Documentarity and Semiotics in Susan Howe's *Peirce-Arrow*," Cary M. Stough, University of Iowa
2. "Through the Ages: A Precis for Pragmatic Literary Theories," James M. Hitt, Saginaw Valley State University
3. "What's the Use of Calling Stanley Cavell a Pragmatist: William James and Stanley Cavell on The Work of Philosophy," Damian Maher, Oxford University

### **Session 8-B Building Community in the Face of Crisis in the Work of Langston Hughes and His Contemporaries (Great Republic)**

Organized by the Langston Hughes Society

Chair: Richard Hancuff, Misericordia University

1. "Interactive Poetics and Photos: Hughes and DeCarava's Harlem Floor Plan," Evelyn Vasquez, University of California, San Diego
2. "*Scottsboro Limited*: Art for Awareness and Resistance," Rich Hancuff, Misericordia University
3. "From African Rhythms to Harlem Jazz: Community Building Through Langston Hughes' Works for Children and Young Adults," Timothy Hering, Duquesne University

### **Session 8-C New Directions in Simms Scholarship (Courier)**

Organized by The William Gilmore Simms Society

Chair: John Miller, Longwood University

1. "Southern Motions: reading William Gilmore Simms's short fiction after the spatial turn," Gabriel Daveau, Université de Lille (FR)
2. "Women Who Found the Nation: Heroines and Simms's Shape of Antebellum Revolutionary Novels," Mei Xiaohan, Fudan University (CN)

### **Session 8-D War Made Civil?: A Roundtable (Empire)**

Organized by the Civil War Caucus

Chair: James Berkey, Penn State Brandywine

1. "Resource Extraction & Rubber Men in 1860s Marital Culture," Rachel Banner, West Chester University of Pennsylvania
2. "Sovereign Mourner: Abraham Lincoln," James A. Godley, Dartmouth College
3. "Thomas Starr King, Transcendental Nationalism, and Aesthetic Sovereignty in California," Michael Stancliff, Arizona State University
4. "Familial Reunion & Disrupted Temporalities in Julia C. Collins's *The Curse of Caste*," Mara Curechian, University of St. Andrews
5. "Substack of the 19th Century: Lecturers, Shakespeare, and the Supernatural in the Civil War Era," Sarah E. Gardner, Mercer University

### **Session 8-E Reappraisals and New Directions in Steinbeck Studies (St. George A)**

Organized by the International Society of Steinbeck Scholars

Chair: Michael Fonash, University of Las Vegas, Nevada

1. "The Snakes: Steinbeck, Himes, and the Development of American Noir," John Castiglione, Independent Scholar
2. "Steinbeck's Reporting from Behind the Iron Curtain," Danica Čerče, University of Ljubljana
3. "Framing Truth: Photography and Ambiguity in Steinbeck's Work," Kathleen Hicks, Arizona State University

### **Session 8-F Rethinking American Naturalism (Essex North-West)**

Organized by the Society for the Study of American Naturalism

Chair: Adam H. Wood, Valdosta State University

1. "The Body As Environment in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* and Achy Obejas's *Ruins*," Reba Mitchell, Rhode Island College
2. "The Joke's on Them: Comedy & Cosmic Irony in Literary Naturalism," Cara Kilgallen, Sacred Heart University

### **Session 8-G Thoreau, Protest, and Social Change (Essex North-East)**

Organized by the Thoreau Society

Chair: Alex Moskowitz, Mount Holyoke College

1. "Unlearning How to Be a Settler with Thoreau," Max Chapnick, The New York Historical
2. "Thoreau's Muse: Ethics, Poetry, and History in *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*," Ami Yoon, Baruch College, CUNY
3. "The Seed Is the Fruit: Thoreau and Abolitionist Extravagance," Sean Gordon, California State University, Fresno

### **Session 8-H Revisiting Darwin (St. George D)**

Organized by: Jennifer Baker, New York University

Chair: Tony McGowan, West Point

1. "Racial Prejudice and Pre-Judgment in Darwin and Melville," Maurice S. Lee, Boston University
2. "'Lawlessness under Law': Whitman, Darwin, and the Evolutionary Principle," Jennifer Baker, New York University
3. "Fossil Bird Tracks: Grief and Vitalism in Dickinson and Darwin," Renée Bergland, Simmons University

### **Session 8-I The House of the Seven Gables: Wood, Ink, and Stone: A Roundtable (Adams)**

Sponsored by The Nathaniel Hawthorne Society

Chair: Charles Baraw, Southern Connecticut State University

1. Charlotte Lindeman, Stanford University
2. Mitchell Edwards, Rutgers University
3. Luke D. Woodard, Southern Connecticut State University
4. Dakota Russell, Executive Director of the House of the Seven Gables
5. Susan Baker, Head Curator of the House of the Seven Gables

### **Session 8-J Rethinking Racial Melancholy in American Literature (Parliament)**

Organizer: Francesca Sawaya, College of William & Mary

Chair: Jan Balakian, Kean University

1. "Melancholic Refusal in David Henry Hwang's *M. Butterfly*," Cassandra Olsen, University of Toronto
2. "This, and much more": Constructing the Asian American Identity Through the Mother's Melancholy in *No-No Boy* and *The Joy Luck Club*," Crystal Wang, College of William & Mary
3. "Julie Otsuka and the Temporality of Suspension," Connor Bennett, University of Toronto
4. "Melancholic Historicism in Charles Chesnutt," Francesca Sawaya, College of William & Mary

### **Session 8-K Western American Literature I (St. George B)**

Organized by the Western Literature Association

Chair: Jim Miranda, Bentley University

1. "'I'll Be Ever'where—Wherever You Look': A Race-Centered Critique of Labor in *Grapes of Wrath* and *Lunar Braceros*," Lydia Burleson, Stanford University
2. "A Dying Breed? Settler Erasure and Lasting Appropriation in *The Last Cowboys*" Travis Franks, Utah State University

### **Session 8-L Gender in Early American Literature (Defender)**

Organized by the Society of Early Americanists

Chair: Christy Pottroff, Boston College

1. "Women and Language Justice in the Early Republic: Introducing Mary Endress Ralston," Betsy Klima and Len von Morzé, University of Massachusetts Boston
2. "A Natural Womanhood: Margaret Fuller's American Femininity," Jessica Bartel, University of Cincinnati
3. "The Literary Body: Epistolary Forms of Freedom & Subjugation in The Republic of Letters," Ella Campopiano, Penn State University

### **Session 8-M Form and Function I (Essex North-Center)**

Chair: Michaela Smith, Georgia Southern University

1. "The Defamiliarization of English in 20<sup>th</sup> Century-American Poetry," Malek J. Zuraikat, Yarmouk University, Jordan
2. "'You Can't Kill Time With Your Heart': David Foster Wallace and the Time of Embodiment," Cory Alix, Roger Williams University, and Britt Zeldenrust, Indiana University Northwestern
3. "Considering Giannina Braschi's *United States of Banana*," Adriana M. Fischetti, CCNY



**Friday, May 23, 2025**  
**10:00 am – 11:20 am**

**Session 9-A Teaching Poe's Humor (Great Republic)**

Organized by Margarida Vale de Gato of the Poe Studies Association

Chair: Paul Lewis, Boston College

1. "Poe's Aesthetic Education: Learning to Face the Horrors of Comedy," Sami H. Atassi, Texas A&M University
2. "'A Smile of Peculiar Meaning': 'Berenice' and the Teaching of Poe's Humor," Rosemond Thomas Cates, University of Texas at Dallas

**Session 9-B Theatrical Responses to Arthur Miller's Life and Work (Helicon)**

Organized by the Arthur Miller Society

Chair: Jan Balakian, Kean University

1. "Miller on Stage," Susan C. W. Abbotson: Rhode Island College
2. "Witchhunts and Our Consent: New Feminist Theatrical Approaches to *The Crucible*," Janice Dzovinar Okoomian, Rhode Island College
3. "Miller Goes to School: *The Crucible* as Feminist Fodder in Theatre for Young Audiences," Joshua Rashon Streeter, Emerson College
4. "Arthur Miller and the Auteur Director," Nicholas Duddy, University of Oxford

**Session 9-C A Matter of Complexion: A Roundtable Discussion of Tess Chakkalakal's new biography of Charles W. Chesnutt (St. George A)**

Sponsored by the Charles W. Chesnutt Association

Moderator, Bill Hardwig, University of Tennessee

Author: Tess Chakkalakal, Bowdoin University

Respondents:

1. Stephanie Browner, The New School
2. M. Giulia Fabi, University of Ferrara
3. Bill Hardwig, University of Tennessee

Presentation of the 2025 Sylvia Lyons Render Award

### **Session 9-D Re-Membering Violence (Empire)**

Organized by the Civil War Caucus

Chair: Kathleen Diffley, University of Iowa

1. "The Battle Report: A Forgotten Genre of Civil War Writing," Yael A. Sternhell, Tel Aviv University/Harvard University
2. "The Public Library and Civil War Memory," Christopher Hager, Trinity College (Connecticut)
3. "Reconstruction through Taxidermy: Martha Maxwell's Animals," Elizabeth Young, Mount Holyoke College
4. "Edward A. Johnson's 1619 Project: Writing African American History in Reconstruction North Carolina," Annemarie Mott Ewing, University of Maryland

### **Session 9-E Roundtable: Twenty Years since *This is Water: A Retrospective* (Essex North-West)**

Organized by the International David Foster Wallace Society

Moderator and Participant: Danielle Ely, Dutchess Community College

1. Katherine Sinyavin, UC Berkeley
2. Anthony Raffin, St. Edward High School

### **Session 9-F "Profound – precarious Property –": Dickinson, Selfhood, and Home (Courier)**

Organized by The Emily Dickinson International Society

Chair: Emily Seelbinder, Queens University of Charlotte (Emerita)

1. "Visitors – the fairest –' At Home with Emily Dickinson," Burleigh Mutén, Independent Scholar
2. "The Bandaged Secret: Emily Dickinson's Private Plight," Gailanne Mackenzie, SUNY Cortland
3. "The way I read a Letter's – this –': Performing Emily Dickinson's Letters," Nicole Panizza, Coventry University (UK)

### **Session 9-G Digital Williams (St. George D)**

Organized by the William Carlos Williams Society

Chair: Mark C. Long, Keene State College

1. "William Carlos Williams and the Poetry Audio Archive," Chris Mustazza, University of Pennsylvania
2. "A Social Poet in New Media: William Carlos Williams on Evolving Media Platforms," Daniel Burke, Arrupe College of Loyola University Chicago

### **Session 9-H    Contemplating Place in Early American Literature (Essex North-East)**

Organized by the Society of Early Americanists

Chair: Melissa Adams-Campbell, Northern Illinois University

1. "Under the Floorboards: Reading a Black Sense of Place in Early America," Allison Curseen, Boston College
2. "The Wetlands Converted: The Stakes of Hydroengineering in Early New England," Michael Ziser, University of California, Davis
3. "Writing Canada: Epistolarity in Frances Brooke's *The History of Emily Montague*," Ben Pokross, Independent Scholar
4. "Registering Place Across Time in Cusick's *Sketches of Ancient History of the Six Nations*," Patricia Roylance, Syracuse University

### **Session 9-I    Paradigmatic Revisions and the Interrogation of Genres and Traditions in African American Literature (Essex North-Center)**

Organized by the African American Literature and Culture Society

Chairs: Jean-Philippe Marcoux, Université Laval

1. "So Far to Go: Trailing W.E.B. DuBois' 'The Comet' in *Leave the World Behind*," Janelle Poe, CUNY-The Graduate Center
2. "Transposing Medievalism: Racial Identity and Markers of Whiteness in Chesnutt's *The House behind the Cedars* and Scott's *Ivanhoe*," Ashley Swann, Wayne State University
3. "Queering the Prison Literary Canon: Black Radical Thought, Queer Desire, and Chester Himes's *Yesterday Will Make You Cry*," Frank Garcia, Rutgers University

### **Session 9-J    Latine/x Diasporas, Latine/x Spiritualisms (Adams)**

Organized by the Latina/o/x Literature and Culture Society

Chair: Karina A. Vado, Johns Hopkins University

1. "Spiritual Orthographies: Brujería as Counter-Memory in Latine/x Literature," Teresa Hernández, Willamette University
2. "'You are one with what is born within you': Reading Anzaldúa in West New York," Inéz Nieves Suarez, Willamette University
3. "Shee Conjures: Pedagogy, Performance, and Ritual," Jiesha Stephens, Chemeketa Community College

### **Session 9-K The Career of Julia Alvarez (Staffordshire)**

Organized by the Society for the Study of the American Short Story

Chair: James Nagel, University of Georgia

Speaker: Julia Alvarez, Middlebury College

James Nagel will engage Julia Alvarez in a conversation about her career, her current projects, and her basic philosophy of the short story. After these comments, she will answer questions and respond to comments from the audience.

### **Session 9-L Comparative Baldwin: Readings on Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality (Parliament)**

Organized by *James Baldwin Review* and the African American Literature and Culture Society

Chair: Justin A. Joyce, Washington University in St. Louis

1. "Double Negative: Race and Class in Baldwin's Theory of the Novel," Leif Turner, University of Minnesota
2. "Building Upward: Class in Baldwin's 'Sonny's Blues' and Whitehead's *The Intuitionist*," Brandy E. Underwood, California State University, Northridge
3. "'Say yes. Say yes./Anyway': Ocean Vuong's Inheritance of James Baldwin's Queer Poetics," Rachel Ann Walsh, Bowling Green State University

### **Session 9-M New Directions in Bellow Studies: Travel, Ecocriticism, Mysticism, and Subversion (Defender)**

Organized by The Saul Bellow Society

Chair: William M. Etter, Irvine Valley College

1. "The American Novel Goes to Israel," Benjamin Seigle, University of Illinois at Chicago.
2. "Revisiting Travel Writing: Postcolonial Ecocriticism in Saul Bellow's *Henderson the Rain King*," Jeeah Ham, The University of Texas at Dallas
3. "The Good is no Phony: Saul Bellow and Iris Murdoch on the Mystical Novel in the Modern World," Miriam Shah, University of Chicago
4. "Finite Jest: Humor as Subversion in *Ravelstein*," Jacob Wilkenfeld, Northwestern University

**Friday, May 23, 2025**  
**11:30 am – 12:50 pm**

**Session 10-A Poe and Materialism (Great Republic)**

Organized by Caleb Doan of the Poe Studies Association

Chair: Caleb Doan, Francis Marion University

1. "Poe's Aesthetic of Consuming and the Utopian Ideal: The Case of 'The Domain of Arnheim,'" Dean Casale, Kean University
2. "Poe's Mourning Objects; or, The Consolation of Desolation," Clark Davis, University of Denver
3. "Rethinking Racial and Climate Materialisms in Poe's Polar Gothic," Abby Goode, Plymouth State University
4. "Binding Poe: Interactive Genre and Personal Bookbinding," Morgan Acord, Loyola University-Chicago

**Session 10-B Cormac McCarthy II: Biography and the Archives (Essex North-West)**

Organized by the Cormac McCarthy Society

Chair: Russell M. Hillier, Providence College

1. "Tricksters and Vindication Seekers: Early Deleted Scenes from *Suttree*," Dianne C. Luce, Emerita of Midlands Technical College
2. "Cormac McCarthy's Women Problem: A Speculative Reading," Nell Sullivan, University of Houston, Downtown
3. "Augusta Britt," Stacey Peebles, Centre College

**Session 10-C *Undead Souths* at 10: The Gothic and Beyond in Southern Literature and Culture (St. George A)**

Organizer and Chair: Eric Gary Anderson, George Mason University

1. "Baptized in the Southern Way of Life: Undead Southern Studies as Civil Religion," Jon Smith, Simon Fraser University
2. "A Dark Gray Overcast: Recurring Representations of Confederates throughout Scooby-Doo Properties," Ashton Leach, University of Wisconsin-Madison
3. "The Undead Song of Appalachia: Mike Mignola's *Hellboy: The Crooked Man*," Jay Ingrao, University of Texas at Dallas
4. "Undead Blackness: Black Religion and the Vampiric in Octavia Butler's *Fledgling*," DeAnna Monique Daniels, University of Arizona
5. "The Dead are Always with Us; To 'Dance the Person Home': Louisiana Creole Memorialization and Funerary Practices," Emily M Goldsmith, Independent Scholar

### **Session 10-D Nature Poetry (St. George D)**

Chair: Lisa Narbeshuber, Acadia University

1. "Bluebell and the Beach House: Maeve Brennen's Nature Stories," April D. Fallon, Saint Xavier University
2. "Green Energy: Ecological Process in the Poetry of Theodore Roethke and Jim Harrison," C.W. Johnson, University of Minnesota Duluth
3. "George Denison Prentice and Antebellum Ohio River Valley Writing Culture," Joe Lockard, Arizona State University

### **Session 10-E Roundtable: Book Data: Quantitative Methods in Literary Criticism and Book Studies (Courier)**

Organized by the Digital Americanists Society

Moderator: Micah Bateman, University of Iowa

1. Angelina Eimannsberger, University of Pennsylvania
2. Nia Judelson, Emory University
3. Avery Blankenship, Northeastern University
4. Cary Stough, University of Iowa
5. Stephanie Blalock, University of Iowa
6. Loren Glass, University of Iowa

### **Session 10-F From 18<sup>th</sup> Century Slave-traders to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tony Nominated Musical Writer, New York's Irish Immigrant Impact. Stories of heroes, villains and rockers. (Empire)**

Organized by Irish American Writers and Artists

Chair: Lori Cassels, Independent Scholar

1. "*Payne-ful*" Business from NYC to Charleston, my Irish family's involvement in the slave trades," Margaret Seidler, Independent Scholar.
2. "Irish Famine Immigrants who worked the Staten Island Marine Hospital and Quarantine Station," Loretto Leary, Secretary, Ireland's Hunger Museum of Fairfield.
3. "Catholic Boy: Locating Jim Carroll in Inwood," Ben Nadler, Widener University.
4. "From Wexford to Paradise Square on NYC's Broadway: Larry Kirwan's Emigrant Literary Journey," Bill Nevins, Independent Scholar.

### **Session 10-G Legacies of Black Women's Writing (Essex North-Center)**

Organized by the African American Literature and Culture Society

Chair: Sabrina Evans, Howard University

1. "Reading Two Biographies of Phillis Wheatley: How Race and Social-Group Affiliation Shape Fluid Life Writing," Sarah Ruffing Robbins, TCU
2. "Rebecca Jackson's Divine Call and Rethinking Authority in Black Religious Women's Writing," Rebekah Trollinger, The University of Vermont
3. "Intersecting Struggles: Frances Ellen Watkins Harper's Activism and Literary Critique of Gendered Racism in *Iola Leroy*," Ciara Graham, The University of Tulsa

### **Session 10-H New Questions about Robert Lowell (Essex North-East)**

Organized by the Robert Lowell Society

Chair: Calista McRae, New Jersey Institute of Technology

1. "Selfyeast of Spirit: The Self and the Soul in Hopkins and Lowell," Joshua Kulseth, Franciscan University of Steubenville
2. "'The World Shall Come to Walsingham': The (Anglo)-Catholic Imagination in Robert Lowell's Poetics," Isaac Randel, Independent Scholar
3. "Robert Lowell and the Gothic: Reading 'The Ghost' for the Eighteenth-Century Influences," Campbell Pratt, Case Western Reserve University

### **Session 10-I Fascism and War in Our Time: A Roundtable on Reading Hemingway in the 21st Century (Helicon)**

Organized by the Hemingway Society

Chair: Verna Kale, Penn State University

1. "Ernest Hemingway's War Narratives in Ukraine and the USA: Reader Response in a Changing World," Ruslana Dovhanchyna, University of Massachusetts Amherst
2. "Beyond 2024: On Resistance and Adversarial Hope," Julian Zabalbeascoa, University of Massachusetts Lowell
3. "Breathing Space Between Wars: Illusions of Immortality in Hemingway's *Men at War*," Ross K. Tangedal, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
4. "War and Ecology in Hemingway's *Across the River and Into the Trees* (1950)," Laëtitia Nebot-Deneuille, Dublin City University

### **Session 10-J Welty's Sheltered Daring and Furtive Feminism (Parliament)**

Organized by the Eudora Welty Society

Chair: Rebecca Mark, Rutgers University

1. "Reading as Resistance in Eudora Welty's Feminist Vision," Camelia Raghinaru, Concordia University Irvine
2. "Radical Softness in Eudora Welty's *The Golden Apples*," Jill Goad, Shorter University
3. "Housekeeping by Eudora Welty," Sarah Gilbreath Ford, Baylor University

### **Session 10-K Issues of Identity (North Star)**

Chair: Cindy Murillo, Colorado State University

1. "'Her Mother. . . Was Half French, Half Spanish': Creole Identity in Lydia Maria Child's *A Romance of the Republic*," Catherine Craft-Fairchild, University of St. Thomas
2. "Premodern East, Postmodern West: Historical Time and Identity in Post-WWII Asian-American Fiction," Jem Shin, Tufts University
3. "Broken Yet Bonded: 'Failed' Care in Ocean Vuong's *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*," Kyeongmin Hwang, University of Texas, Dallas

### **Session 10-L Philip Roth and Empathy, A Roundtable Discussion (Adams)**

Organized by the Philip Roth Society

Moderator: Miriam Jaffe, Rutgers University

1. "The Limits of Empathy: Pain and Getting Other People Wrong in Philip Roth's *The Anatomy Lesson*," Matthew Shipe, Washington University in St. Louis
2. "The Writer as Patient: Convalescence and Empathy in Roth's *The Anatomy Lesson*," Jacob Wilkenfeld, Northwestern University
3. "'This profession even fucks up grief': Empathy as Interpretation in Philip Roth," Antonio J. Ferraro, University of Cincinnati, Blue Ash
4. "'It is only life, and I am only human': Practices of Empathy in the Kepesh Trilogy," Rachele Puddu, University of Udine / University of Trieste

**Friday, May 23, 2025**

**1:00 pm – 2:20 pm**

### **Session 11-A "God is Change": Explorations of Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Sower* (Empire)**

Organized by the Octavia E. Butler Literary Society

Chair: Kendra R. Parker, Georgia Southern University

1. "'To build something better': The Infrastructure of Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Sower*," Emma Fox, Brigham Young University
2. "Adaptive and Maladaptive Applications of Religious Thought in Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Sower*," Christina Delray, University of Nebraska at Omaha
3. "Afrofuturism as a Reflection of Black History and Culture: Communication, Community & Change in Octavia E. Butler's Literature," Karyn L. Hixson, University of Texas - San Antonio

### **Session 11-B Unique Archives: Digital Projects and Preservation Outside the Canon (Great Republic)**

Organized by the Digital Americanists Society

Chair: Hayley Stefan, College of the Holy Cross

1. "The Poet Speaks: Walt Whitman on the Death of Abraham Lincoln," Kenneth Hoover, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
2. "Classified Ignorance: How Secrecy Shapes Science, Society, and Power," Arun Jacob, University of Toronto
3. "Creating a Digital Archive for Data-Driven DH," Ashlyn Stewart, Boston College



### **Session 11-C Melvillean Pedagogies (Helicon)**

Organized by the Melville Society

Chair and Respondent: Sari Edelstein, University of Massachusetts, Boston

1. "Melville, Hawthorne, and Movement," Melissa Gniadek, University of Toronto
2. "The Heart of the Deal: Herman Melville and the Affective Life of Commerce," Jennie Lightweis-Goff, Texas A&M University
3. "What a Whale Is: 'Cetology,' Literature, and the Environment," Jeffrey Insko, Oakland University

### **Session 11-D Gender in Early American Literature (Courier)**

Organized by the Society of Early Americanists

Chair: Melissa Adams-Campbell, Northern Illinois University

1. "Postal Hacker: Amelia Bloomer, Deputy Postmaster, Seneca Falls, NY," Christy Pottroff, Boston College
2. "Women in Black Hawk's War," Melissa Adams-Campbell, Northern Illinois University

### **Session 11-E Decay, Doppelgangers, and Ecogothic in American Naturalism (Essex North-East)**

Sponsored by the Society for the Study of American Naturalism

Chair: Adam H. Wood, Valdosta State University

1. "Decay, Degeneration, and Rot: Evolving Naturalism in Mary E. Wilkins Freeman's 'A Mistaken Charity' and 'Old Woman Magoun,'" Georgia Testa, Rhode Island College
2. "*McTeague*'s Ecogothic Landscape and Labor," Nicole de Fee, Louisiana Tech University
3. "Doubles Again: Doppelgangers, Second Chances, and the Naturalist Character's Dilemma." Anita Duneer, Rhode Island College

### **Session 11-F Roundtable: Thoreau in the Capitalocene (Essex North-West)**

Organized by the Thoreau Society

Chair: Alex Moskowitz, Mount Holyoke College

1. "'A Civil Right in the River': Thoreau, the Concord River, and Legal Personhood," Geoffrey R. Kirsch, University of Cambridge
2. "The 'Naturalists' and 'Meadowish': Reclamations of Body, Mind and Spirit through Thoreau's *Walden* and Douglass's 'Fuschia,' Marlas Yvonne Whitley, New York University
3. "Climate Romance or Climate Realism? Thoreau, McKibben, and Touring the Capitalocene," Patrick Whitmarsh, College of the Holy Cross
4. "Ethics of Ecosabotage: The Overstory and the Capitalocene," Kelly Gray, Boston College
5. "Huckleberries in the Capitalocene," John Kucich, Bridgewater State University

### **Session 11-G Flannery O'Connor's Country: Nation, Myth, and Region (St. George A)**

Organized by The Flannery O'Connor Society

Chair: Matt Bryant Cheney, University of Tennessee

1. "Mary Fortune-Pitts, Tim Walz, and the Dialogics of O'Connor's America," Alexia Ainsworth, Stanford University
2. "'Dignity! Honor! Courage!': Revisiting and Reimagining Lost Cause Mythologies in the American South with Flannery O'Connor," Amy Crawford, Auburn University

### **Session 11-H Edith Wharton and Democracy (Parliament)**

Organized by the Edith Wharton Society

Chair: Emily Coit, University of Chicago

1. "Edith Wharton's Ordinary Vices," Nir Evron, Tel Aviv University
2. "Democratic Social Reform through Literary Realism in Edith Wharton's Bunner Sisters," Elizabeth Youngman, University of Wyoming
3. "'The Dissolution of the Ancestral Order': Wharton, Lippmann, and Democracy," Emily Coit, University of Chicago

Responder: Arielle Zibrak, University of Wyoming

### **Session 11-I Reading Multiethnic Literature as Guidance in Times of Trouble (St George B)**

Organized by The Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS)

Chair: Sherry Johnson, Grand Valley State University

1. "Narrative Healing: Learning from Experience in Angie Cruz's *How Not to Drown in a Glass of Water*," C. Christina Lam, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY
2. "Death's Resistance: Human and Environmental Trauma in Rivers Solomon's *An Unkindness of Ghosts*," Madeline Belland, Loyola University Chicago
3. "Teaching a Course on Citizenship--as Enacted from the Margins--in a Traumatic Election Year," Sarah Ruffing Robbins, Texas Christian University

### **Session 11-J Western American Literature II (North Star)**

Organized by the Western Literature Association

Chair: Travis Franks, Utah State University

1. "The Where of Us as Critics," Krista Comer, Rice University
2. "A Filipino Robinson Crusoe: The Colonial Path of Carlos Bulosan's *America Is in the Heart*," Ryan Wander, Valdosta State University
3. "From Fever to Fabulation: Valeria Luiselli's *Lost Children Archive* and the Act of Memory," Jim Miranda, Bentley University

### **Session 11-K American Experimental Fiction: A Roundtable Discussion (Essex North-Center)**

Organized by the Jonathan Bayliss Society

Chair: John T. Day, Jonathan Bayliss Society

1. "Systems in the Novels of Jonathan Bayliss," Gary Grieve-Carlson, Lebanon Valley College
2. "Narrative Experimentation and the Disruption of Spectral Expectations in George Saunders's *Lincoln in the Bardo*," Karen Frances McCarthy, Independent Scholar
3. "Detectives on Drugs: Intoxication, Agency, and Experimentation in Contemporary American Crime Fiction," Nick Salvo, Temple University
4. "Schizopolitics and Surplus-Concepts in *Cyclonopedia: Negarestani and Lacan*," Izaak Hecht, University of Utah

### **Session 11-L Roundtable Discussion: New Work in Ralph Ellison Studies (Defender)**

Organized by the Ralph Ellison Society

Moderator: Marc Conner, Skidmore College

1. Benji de la Piedra, independent scholar
2. Greg Thomas, Omni-American Future Project
3. Jon Weldon, VCUarts Qatar
4. John Matthew Steinhafel, Catholic University of America
5. John Callahan, Lewis and Clark College
6. Sasha Callahan, independent artist
7. Marc Conner, Skidmore College
9. Allen McFarlane, NYU

### **Session 11-M American Poetics in the 21st Century: A Roundtable (Staffordshire)**

Organized by the Society for the Study of American Poetry

Moderator: Nikki Skillman, Indiana University

1. Stephanie Burt, Harvard University
2. Matthew Hofer, University of New Mexico
3. Urayoan Noel, New York University
4. Vidyan Ravinthiran, Harvard University
5. Rachel Trousdale, Framingham State University

### **Session 11-N The Ghosts of Philip Roth (Adams)**

Organized by the Philip Roth Society

Chair: Aimee Pozorski, Central Connecticut State University

1. "Specter's Theater and Sabbath's Ghosts," Joseph Ozias, University of Cincinnati
2. "Philip Roth's Spectral Ethnicity," Rachele Puddu, University of Udine/ University of Trieste
3. "Mourning the Loss of 'that phantom, future happiness' in Philip Roth's *Nemesis*," Andy Connolly, Hostos Community College

**Friday, May 23, 2025**  
**2:30 pm – 3:50 pm**

**Session 12-A Beyond the Dramaturgy: New Horizons in August Wilson Scholarship**

**Organized by the August Wilson Society (St. George A)**

Chair: J. Ken Stuckey, Bentley University

1. "Do It, But Make It Pop: An Exploration of the 'Cinematic' in the Film Adaptations of August Wilson's Plays," Milt A.P. Moise, Rollins College
2. "Notes on the Reception of Patti Hartigan's *August Wilson: A Life*," Paul Devlin, United States Merchant Marine Academy
3. "Comparing the Shamanic Cores of *Gem of the Ocean* and *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* with Ralph Ellison's *Three Days Before the Shooting*," Benji de la Piedra, Independent Scholar

**Session 12-B Bodily Encounters in the Korean and Japanese Diaspora**

**Organized by the Circle for Asian American Literary Studies (Great Republic)**

Chair: Christine Kitano, Stony Brook University

1. "Emotional Citizenship: Diasporic Narratives and the Politics of Representation in the *Pachinko* Novel and Apple TV+ Series," Hyun Kyung Jung, Seoul National University
2. "Beyond the Veil of Memory: The Narrative Ambiguities of *They Called Us Enemy*," Seungyun Oh, Seoul National University
3. "When the Body Rebels: The Effluent Subject in *The Vegetarian*," Seung-young Won, Pennsylvania State University
4. "Unity and Discord: Complexity of Black/Asian Body Politics in Steph Cha's *Your House Will Pay*," Eugene Pae, SUNY Albany

**Session 12-C Current Conversations in Charles W. Chesnutt Scholarship (Helicon)**

**Organized by the Charles W. Chesnutt Association**

Chair: Bill Hardwig, University of Tennessee

1. "Contexts and Artifacts: An Intertextual and Multimedia Approach to Teaching 'Po Sandy,'" Verna Kale, Penn State University
2. "Chesnutt's Revising: 'The Doll' in Draft," Stephanie Browner, The New School
3. "Revising Rena and Revisiting *The House Behind the Cedars*," Amina Gautier, University of Miami

### **Session 12-D Postbellum Confrontations (Courier)**

Organized by the Civil War Caucus

Chair: Michael Stancliff, Arizona State University

1. "Colonel Beaulieu's War: Making the White Earth Nation, 1862-68," Adam Spry, University of Michigan
2. "The Left-Armed Corps and the Pension Bureau," Alli Johnson, San José State University
3. "George Boutwell as 'lean and hungry' Cassius in the Impeachment of Andrew Johnson," Jeffrey Boutwell, Independent Scholar
4. "Stephen Crane's Antiwar Poetics," Evan Reibsome, Louisiana State University Shreveport

### **Session 12-E F. Scott Fitzgerald II: Roundtable: The Best Books of 1925: From Bestsellers to Classics (Empire)**

Organized by the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society

Moderator: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University

1. Katie Warczak, University of Pittsburgh
2. Robert Trogdon, Kent State University
3. Ross K. Tangedal, University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point
5. Justin Mellette, Northeastern University
6. Maralisa Marra, Duquesne University

### **Session 12-F Discovery Session Roundtable: New Directions in Joyce Carol Oates Studies (St. George D)**

Organized by the Joyce Carol Oates Society

Discussion led by Tanya Tromble-Giraud, Aix-Marseille Université, and Randy Souther, University of San Francisco

The participants will outline their interests in the field, as well as ideas for future study. They welcome participation from colleagues in attendance. This is a discovery session in view to launching the Joyce Carol Oates Society.

### **Session 12-G Reckoning with Racism and Flannery O'Connor (Essex North-West)**

Organized by The Flannery O'Connor Society

Chair: Anthony Szczesiul, UMass-Lowell

1. "Live in American Lit: Ghosts of Andalusia's Black Farm Workers in the Writings of Flannery O'Connor," Patricia Ann West, Savannah State University
2. "'Forced Labor Camps and Gas Chambers' at Home: Race in Flannery O'Connor," Kendra Hamilton, Presbyterian College
3. "Black Culture, White Innovation: Quentin Tarantino, Flannery O'Connor, and the Emblematic Technology of Blackness," Joshua Damu Smith, Biola University

### **Session 12-H Postwar Periodicals II: Countercultures (Essex North East)**

Organized by the Postwar Area Literature Group

Chair: Jesse Zuba, Delaware State University

1. "Political Forms Forming Politics: Reading Women's Liberation through Feminist Periodicals." Agatha Beins, Texas Woman's University.
2. "'Typing in 'Boyland': Literary Community and Secretarial Labor in Beat Movement Magazines," Mitchell Edwards, Rutgers University
3. "'Congratulations, Tiger': Postwar Masculinity and the Destruction of the American Dream as Represented in Stephen King's *Children of the Corn* and *Penthouse* Magazine, 1977," Amy Maranville, Dean College
4. "Battle of the Tabloid Titans: Daily Coverage of the Son of Sam," Jacqueline Foertsch, University of North Texas

### **Session 12-I Edith Wharton and Popular Culture (Parliament)**

Organized by the Edith Wharton Society

Chair: Emily Orlando, Fairfield University

1. "'It Girl' to 'Girl's Girl': The Renaissance of Edith Wharton, 2025 Edition," Elif S. Armbruster, Suffolk University
2. "The Comeback of *The Glimpses of the Moon*," Laetitia Nebot-Deneuille, Dublin City University
3. "Anesthetic Femininity and the 'Unlikeable' Female Character: Edith Wharton's Influence on 'My Year of Rest and Relaxation,'" Leila Stegemoeller, The University of California, Santa Barbara
4. "The Age of Influence: Edith Wharton's Stories and Instagram Stories," H. J. E. Champion, Université Bordeaux Montaigne, France

### **Session 12-J Hurston Horizons, Cosmic and Critical (North Star)**

Organized by Amy A. Foley, Providence College and The Zora Neale Hurston NEH Institute

Chair: Sabrina Evans, Howard University

1. "'And I take part...': Hurston and Race as Method," Devon Epiphany Clifton, Brown University
2. "Porches and Power: Hurston's Building in Dialogue," Amy A. Foley, Providence College

### **Session 12-K Robert Lowell's *Memoirs* (2022): A Roundtable Discussion (Adams)**

Organized by the Robert Lowell Society

Moderator and Respondent: Steven Gould Axelrod, University of California Riverside

1. Jo Gill, University of Glasgow
2. Robert von Hallberg, Claremont McKenna College
3. Calista McRae, New Jersey Institute of Technology
4. Meg Schoerke, San Francisco State
5. Thomas Travisano, Hartwick College, Emeritus

### **Session 12-L Indigenous Literature (St. George C)**

Chair: Eric Gary Anderson, George Mason University

1. "Refusing the Colonial: Indigenous Voices in Stephen Graham Jones' *The Only Good Indians*," Michaela Smith, Georgia Southern University
2. "Serial Killers Without Final Girls: The Origin Story Rewritten in Paul Tremblay's Horror Movie and Stephen Graham Jones' *I Was a Teenage Slasher*," Ivonne M. Garcia, Williams College

### **Session 12-M Marilynne Robinson Session I (Defender)**

Organized by the Marilynne Robinson Society

Chair, Ray Horton, Murray State University

1. "Marilynne Robinson's Providential Narrative: Human Particularity and Creation in *Reading Genesis* and the Gilead Novels," Taylor Bowman, Point University
2. "Re-Reading *Genesis*: Guilt, Grace, and 'the knowledge of the good' in Marilynne Robinson's *Jack*," Makayla C. Steiner, Brigham Young University
3. "The Ethics of Forgiveness in Marilynne Robinson's *Home* and *Lila*: Grace, Guilt, and Reconciliation," Francheska Matos, Florida State University and Koritha Mitchell, Boston University

### **Session 12-N The Mythic and Eternal in the Poetry and Prose of H.D. (Essex North-Center)**

Organized by the H.D. International Society

Chair: Celena E. Kusch, University of South Carolina Upstate

1. "'So if you love me, / love me everywhere': Place, Love, and H.D.'s Eternal Space-Time," Sarah Allen, Writer and Independent Scholar
2. "Love in the Shadow of War: H.D.'s Autobiographical-Therapeutic Use of Mythological Analogues and Allusions in *Hymen*," Linyan Zheng, Rice University
3. "Body, Mind, and Over-Mind in *Notes on Thought and Vision* and *Palimpsest*," Celena E. Kusch, University of South Carolina Upstate
4. "'Erased to Make Room for Another': H.D., Duncan, and the Project of Gérard Genette's Continuation," Bret Keeling, Northeastern University

**Friday, May 23, 2025**

**4:00 pm – 5:20 pm**

### **Session 13-A Mark Twain in Contemporary Perspective (St George A)**

Organized by The Mark Twain Circle

Chair: Judith Yaross Lee, Ohio University

1. "Jim, Jasper, James, and Django: Mark Twain, White Dread, and the Ghost of Afrofuturism," Ann M. Ryan, Le Moyne College
2. "Twain's Arthurian Classic Illustrated: Adaptations of *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* in the Comics," Michael A. Torregrossa, Bristol Community College
3. "The Clemenses at Tedworth Square: Family Dynamics and Urban Design," Susan K. Harris, University of Kansas

### **Session 13-B Expanding the Asian American Archive (Great Republic)**

Organized by the Circle for Asian American Literary Studies

Chair: Akash Belsare, University of Illinois, Springfield

1. "Chinese Specters in the Indigenous Imagination: Examining Indigenous-Asian American Relations in the Nineteenth-Century South," Janet Song, USC
2. "Computational Linguistics and Syntax Connotation in Asian American Short Stories, 1974-2024," Zhihui Zou, Duke University
3. "Beyond Evangelism: *The Chinese Evangelist* (1888-90) and Chinese American Assimilation and Community Building," J. Michael Duvall, College of Charleston

### **Session 13-C E. E. Cummings, Modernist Aesthetics, and Resistance (Helicon)**

Organized by the E. E. Cummings Society

Chair: Gillian Huang-Tiller, University of Virginia, Wise

1. "Modernist Pacific Rim and the Cross-Medial/Cultural Aesthetics of E. E. Cummings' 'Poempictoriality,'" Bowen Wang, Shanghai Jiao Tong University
2. "Making America Modern: Scofield Thayer's *Living Art*," James Dempsey, Independent Scholar
3. "'dropsin' and 'rubbish': E. E. Cummings' World War II Era Anti-war Poems," Michael Webster, Grand Valley State University

### **Session 13-D Re-Envisioning Reconstruction (Courier)**

Sponsored by The Civil War Caucus

Chair: Kathleen Diffley, University of Iowa

1. "Frances Harper in Harriet Hayden's Boston, 1876," Koritha Mitchell, Boston University
2. "'A Monument Invisible': H. Cordelia Ray and the Freedmen's Memorial to Abraham Lincoln," Benjamin Fagan, Auburn University
3. "Frances Williard, Ida B. Wells, and the Battle for the Soul of Early Progressivism," Stefan M. Wheelock, George Mason University
4. "'To the Women of the Country': Race Women's Visual and Literary Solidarity in the 1895 National Clubwomen's Convention," Brandi Locke, Pennsylvania State University

### **Session 13-E Postwar and Contemporary Art/Lit Intersections (Essex North-West)**

Organized by the Postwar Area Literature Group

Chair: Jacqueline Fortsch, University of North Texas

1. "Readers as Witnesses: Graphic Memoirs and Secondary Witnessing," Benjamin Batzer, Truman State University
2. "Compositional 'Sets' in Nathaniel Mackey's Serial Poems," Michael Mason, University of Texas – Austin
3. "'The Experience of Being an American Whore': Lana Del Rey's Promiscuous Patriotism," Emily Banks, Franklin College
4. "Posthuman Collaboration: Generative AI in *Do You Remember Being Born?*," Jana Fedtke, NYU Shanghai



### **Session 13-F New Perspectives on Willa Cather (Essex North-East)**

Organized by the Willa Cather Foundation

Chair: Sarah Clere, Independent Scholar

1. "Sources of Nationalist Nostalgia: Living on Memories of the 'Missed' in Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth* and Willa Cather's *My Ántonia*," Jack Kerkering, Loyola University Chicago
2. "Willa Cather and *The Professor's House*: Phenomenologically Speaking," Kimberly Vanderlaan, Pennsylvania Western University
3. "The Copy of *A White Heron* Sarah Orne Jewett Inscribed to Willa Cather in 1908," Melissa J. Homestead, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

### **Session 13-G Cormac McCarthy III: The Legacy of Cormac McCarthy: A Roundtable (Empire)**

Organized by the Cormac McCarthy Society

Moderator, Steven Frye, California State University, Bakersfield

1. Dianne C. Luce, Emerita of Midlands Technical College
2. Stacey Peebles, Centre College
3. Scott Yarbrough, Charleston Southern University
4. Lydia R. Cooper, Seattle University

### **Session 13-H Arthur Miller: Politician, Innovator, Comedian, Savior (St. George D)**

Organized by the Arthur Miller Society

Chair: Stephen Marino, St. Francis College

1. "Arthur Miller and The Cold War," Joshua Polster, Emerson College
2. "The Importance of Setting in *Death of Salesman* as a Reflection of the Avant-Garde in American Drama," Kelly I. Aliano, The New York Historical
3. "Arthur Miller the Comedian," Matthew McMahan, Emerson College

### **Session 13-I Plant Humanities (Adams)**

Organized by the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment

Chair: Kathleen Burns, Oklahoma State University

1. "The Huckleberry at the End of the World: Thoreau, Native America and the Ends of Capitalism," John J. Kucich, Bridgewater State University
2. "'Through the medium of your paper': Circulating Botanical Medicine through Women's Letter-writing," Mindy Buchanan-King, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
3. "Queer Lichens, Mycelial Kinship: Rewriting Gendered Gothic Ecologies in T. Kingfisher's *What Moves the Dead*," Luoshu Zhang, Duke University
4. "Lost in the Woods: Disorientation and Strange Environmental Rhetoric in Daniel Mason's *North Woods*," Luke Rodewald, Georgia Institute of Technology

**Session 13-J Hopkins and her Society: Fifteen Years of the Pauline E. Hopkins Society (Parliament)**

Organized by the Pauline Hopkins Society

Chair: John Cullen Gruesser, Sam Houston State University

1. "'Virtuous atmosphere': The Literary Politics of Air in Pauline Hopkins's Domestic Spaces," Lisa Bognenko, CNRS - Université Paris Cité – Sorbonne Université
2. "The Diasporic Scientist: Discourses of Racial Science and Ancestral Knowing in Pauline Hopkins' *Of One Blood: or the Hidden Self*," Jessie Heine, University of Oregon
3. "Blood Paradoxes: Racial Inheritance in Pauline Hopkins' *Of One Blood: Or, The Hidden Self*," Klara Loc-Ling Boger, University of Michigan

Respondent: Courtney Novosat, Carnegie Mellon University

**Session 13-K New Perspectives on "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (Defender)**

Organized by the T. S. Eliot Society

Chair: Nancy K. Gish, University of Southern Maine

1. "The Modernist Chronotope's Romantic Capacity: Examining Anti-Romance in T.S. Eliot's 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock,'" Noelle Kriegel, Clemson University
2. "'But There Was No Information': Eliot's Foreclosed Subjects," Abigail Rogers, Duke University
3. "Poetry and Emily Hale," Sara Fitzgerald, Independent Scholar

**Friday, May 23, 2025  
5:30 pm – 6:15 pm**

**Session 14-A Business Meeting: The Mark Twain Circle (St George A)**

**Session 14-B Business Meeting: The Poe Studies Association (St. George B)**

**Session 14-C Business Meeting: E. E. Cummings Society (Helicon)**

**Session 14-D Business Meeting: Charles W. Chesnutt Association (St. George C)**

**Session 14-E Business Meeting: Postwar Area Literature Group (Essex North-West)**

**Session 14-F Business Meeting: Langston Hughes Society (Essex North-Center)**

**Session 14-G Business Meeting: Cormac McCarthy Society (Empire)**

**Session 14-H Business Meeting: Arthur Miller Society (St. George D)**

**Session 14-I Business Meeting: Robert Lowell Society (Essex North-East)**

**Session 14-J Business Meeting: Pauline Hopkins Society (Parliament)**

**Session 14-K Business Meeting: Ralph Ellison Society (Baltic)**

**Session 14-L Business Meeting: Digital Americanists (Defender)**

**Session 14-M Business Meeting: Society for the Study of the American Gothic (Adams)**

**Session 14-N Business Meeting: Philip Roth Society (Courier)**

**Friday, May 23, 2025  
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
(Staffordshire)**

## **African American Literature and Culture Society Reception Reading and Awards Ceremony**

**Presentation of the Stephen E. Henderson Award for Outstanding Achievement in  
Poetry**

**to Tracy K. Smith**

**Presentation of the Darwin T. Turner Award  
to Farah Jasmine Griffin**

**Presentation of the Octavia E. Butler Award in Memory of Consuela Francis  
to Shirley Moody-Turner**

**Tracy K. Smith**, the recipient of the Stephen E. Henderson Award, is a Professor of English and African and African American Studies at Harvard University and the Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Professor at the Harvard Radcliffe Institute. She served two terms as the national Poet Laureate from 2017-2019 and in 2012 won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for her 2011 collection *Life on Mars*. Her other poetry collections include *The Body's Question* (2003), *Duende* (2007), *Wade in the Water* (2018), and *Such Color: New and Selected Poems* (2021). She's also written a memoir *Ordinary Light* (2015) and memoir-manifesto *To Free the Captives: A Plea for the American Soul* (2023), which was named *Time* magazine's and the *Washington Post's* Best Book of the Year. Smith's many accolades include being awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Harold Washington Literary Award, the Academy Fellowship of the Academy of American Poets, the Harvard Arts Medal, the Columbia Medal for Excellence, a Smithsonian Ingenuity Award, and an *Essence* Literary Award. She is a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets and an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society.

**Farah Jasmine Griffin**, the recipient of the Darwin T. Turner Award, is the William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African American Studies at Columbia University and was previously the inaugural Chair of the African American and African Diaspora Studies department. She's also served as Director-Elect of the Columbia University Institute for Research in African American Studies (IRAAS) and was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2021. Griffin has authored or edited over eight books including *"Who Set You Flowin'?: The African-American Migration Narrative* (1995), *Beloved Sisters and Loving Friends: Letters from Rebecca Primus of Royal Oak, Maryland, and Addie Brown of Hartford, Connecticut, 1854-1868* (1999), *If You Can't Be Free, Be a Mystery: In Search of Billie Holiday* (2001), *Uptown Conversation: The New Jazz Studies* (2004), *Clawing at the Limits of Cool: Miles Davis, John Coltrane, and the Greatest Jazz Collaboration Ever* (2008), *Harlem Nocturne: Women Artists and Progressive Politics During World War II* (2013), *Read Until You Understand: The Profound Wisdom of Black Life and Literature* (2021), and *In Search of a Beautiful Freedom: New and Selected Essays* (2023). Her work appears in *The New York Times*, *The Daily Guardian*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Art Forum*, among others.

**Shirley Moody-Turner**, the recipient of the Octavia E. Butler Award in Memory of Consuela Francis, is an Associate Professor of English and African American Studies at Penn State University and founding Co-Director of the Center for Black Digital Research there. She is the Faculty Director of the Black Women's Organizing Archive (BWOA), a digital humanities project that seeks to bring together the scattered archives of nineteenth and early twentieth-century Black women organizers. She's also the Founding Director of the Cooper-Du Bois Mentoring Program which, since its inception, has provided support to nearly 100 students interested in pursuing graduate study in African American literature, language, and culture. Her books include *Black Folklore and the Politics of Racial Representation* (2013), *African American Literature in Transition, 1900-1910* (2021), and *The Portable Anna Julia Cooper* (2022). Her work appears in *The Journal of American Folklore*, *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*, *MELUS*, and *African American Review*, among others. Moody-Turner is co-editor of the book series *Black Print and Organizing in the Long Nineteenth Century* with UPenn Press and an upcoming special issue forum for *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* on the Black Women's Organizing Archive. She's been awarded various fellowships and residencies from the National Humanities Center, Ford Foundation, and the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research. She is currently working on an Anna Julia Cooper biography entitled *Courageous Revolt: Anna Julia Cooper and the Making of a Black Woman Intellectual*.

**Saturday, May 24, 2025**  
**8:30 am – 9:50 am**

**Session 15-A Popular Music and American Literature (Helicon)**

Organized by Kirk Curnutt

Chair: Ross K. Tangedal, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point

1. "Polyvalent Music in James Baldwin's *Just Above My Head*," Keerti Arora, University of Texas
2. "Legacies and Legalities: The Case of Jacqueline Woodson's *After Tupac and D Foster*," Kirk Curnutt Troy University
3. "The history of music in America is a sample of the sound of a woman sobbing...": Love, Loss, and the Poetry of Saeed Jones," Sara A. Kosiba (Northeast Ohio Medical University)

### **Session 15-B Social Identity and its Intersections: New Directions in McCullers Scholarship (Courier)**

Organized by the Carson McCullers Society

Chair: Kristen Proehl, SUNY Brockport

1. "The Ballad of the 'Normalized' Café: Intersections of Disability and Gender in *The Ballad of the Sad Café*," Luke T. Anderson, Louisiana State University.
2. "'I don't want to grow up—if it's like that': Re-Reading Carson McCullers' story 'Like That' in the #MeToo Era," Erin Bell, University of Detroit Mercy
3. "Natural Freaks: Hybridity, Anomaly, Deviance, and Embodied Wisdom in *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*," Tiffany Messick, Gulf Coast State University
4. "The Crip Vernacular of Deaf-Mutism in *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*," Kaiyue Hou, University of Bristol

### **Session 15-C "Make people feel!": Pedagogical Approaches to Octavia E. Butler (Essex North-East)**

Organized by the Octavia E. Butler Literary Society

Chair: DeAnna Daniels, University of Arizona

1. "Global Public Health Promotion and Reproductive Justice: Feminist Pedagogical Approach through Octavia E. Butler's *Dawn*," Punam Mehta, University of Manitoba
2. "Teaching Butler and Dis/Ability Literature: Reflections on Teaching 'Disability Demands a Story': Extraordinary Bodies in Literature," Maureen McDonnell, College of the Sequoias
3. "Understanding Octavia E. Butler: Butler as a Romance Writer," Kendra R. Parker, Georgia Southern University

### **Session 15-D The Place of Multimedia Franchise Fiction in American Literature (St. George A)**

Organizer: Nathaniel Williams, University of California, Davis

Chair: Gerry Canavan, Marquette University

1. "Genre vs. Franchise: The Ultimate Crossover," Andrew Goldstone, Rutgers University
2. "Reading the Shadow's Mail: Pulp, Crime, and Franchise Fans," Nathaniel Williams, University of California, Davis
3. "The Haptic Strikes Back: How Haptic Aesthetics Shape How We Experience, Watch, Enjoy, and Interact with Star Wars," Tara Salvati, West Virginia University
4. "The Bosch Franchise," David R. Shumway, Carnegie Mellon University

### **Session 15-E Humor and/in Periodicals in the Long 19th Century (Empire)**

Organized by the American Humor Studies Association and Research Society for American Periodicals  
Chairs: Wesley McMasters, Carson-Newman University, and Todd Thompson, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

1. "Harriet Farley versus George R. Graham: Nineteenth-Century Magazine Editors on Gender, Love, and Romance," Bridget Marshall, University of Massachusetts, Lowell
2. "Poe as a Target in the First Parodies of 'The Raven,'" Paul Lewis, Boston College
3. "Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins's 'Mischievous Sarcasms': Re-Mapping Native Space on the 19th Century Page and Stage," Henry Kirby, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
4. "'Are Women People?': Feminist satire in the newspaper writing of Fanny Fern and Alice Duer Miller," Emily E. VanDette, SUNY Fredonia

### **Session 15-F The Historical Imagination (Essex North-West)**

Chair: Kathleen Diffley, University of Iowa

1. "When Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton Witnessed the Failure of U.S. Democracy," Jose Aranda, Rice University
2. "History and Imagination: Subversion, Invention, and Historical Engagement in James McBride's *The Good Lord Bird*," k Grace Salib, The University of Texas, Austin
3. "'The Truth of Our Historic Encounter': Curating Networks of the Past in Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*," Holden d'Evegne, Brigham Young University
4. "Charles Olson: Psychological Warfare Executive," Sam O'Hana, CUNY

### **Session 15-G Literary Reconsiderations (St. George D)**

Chair: April Trepagnier, Georgia Southern University

1. "Ella Higginson, American Literary Anthologies, and the Erasure of the Celebrated Fin de Siècle Woman Poet," Mary Conaway, Western Washington University
2. "John Cheever VS James Purdy," Michael Snyder, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City
3. "'A fire too hot for O': Paul Metcalf's Place in Postmodernism," Onur Ayaz, CUNY
4. "Restoring the Lost Voice of Charlie May Simon," Aleshia O'Neal, College of the Ozarks

### **Session 15-H War and American Literature (Parliament)**

Chair: Maegan Bishop, Georgia Southern University

1. "Bad Veterans and the Echoes of Post-Gulf War Extremism," Zak Jones, University of Toronto
2. "Drone Art and the *Demos*: Jenn Osman's *Public Figures*," Spencer Morrison, University of Groningen
3. "Linguistic Usages: Dialect, Military Techniques, and Walter E. Seward's Afromodernism," Jennifer Harvey, Université de Lille
4. "From Distant Conflict to Civil War: Naturalization and Its Limits in *The Country of the Pointed Firs*," Tianyu Ma, The University of Iowa

**Session 15-I Marilynne Robinson Session II (Adams)**

Chair, Ryan Siemers, Southern Utah University

1. "For in the Case of Such Sorrow, Who Can Distinguish Mine from Thine?": *Housekeeping* and the Rejection of Pathologized Depression and Suicide," Darrin Grinder, Northwest Nazarene University
2. "'Imagine a Carthage sown with salt': Confessions of Loss and the 'Prophecy' of Longing in Marilynne Robinson's *Housekeeping*," Megan Scott, The Catholic University of America
3. "Crip's Ascension: Reconsidering Ecological Relationships in Marilynne Robinson's *Housekeeping*," Anna Marsh, University of Alabama at Birmingham

**Session 15-J New Voices in Steinbeck Studies (Great Republic)**

Organized by the International Society of Steinbeck Scholars

Chair: Danica Čerče, University of Ljubljana

1. "Rose of Sharon's Radical Climate Response: The Imagining of Environmental Disaster in *The Grapes of Wrath*," Jesse Carter, Truman State University
2. "Steinbeck's *Cannery Row* and Americanness," Michael Fonash, University of Las Vegas, Nevada
3. "Steinbeck's Mexican Pearl: Between Influence and Appropriation," Alan Burnett Valverde, Stanford University

**Saturday, May 24, 2013**  
**10:00 am – 11:20 am**

**Session 16-A Pathways to Freedom (St. George D)**

Chair: Aldon Lynn Nielsen, The Pennsylvania State University, Emeritus

1. "Donald Woods Winnicott and 'Transitional Objects,'" Sandy Alexandre, MIT
2. "From Eroticism to Disaffection: Agency and the Legacy of Property in the Poetry of Yusef Komunyakaa," Anne Dewey, Saint Louis University, Madrid Campus
3. "'Profit Made Flesh': *Drapetomania* and the Medicalized Enslaved Body in Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*," Raquel Kennon, University of Wisconsin, Madison

**Session 16-B McCullers in Conversation and Context: A Roundtable Discussion (Courier)**

Organized by the Carson McCullers Society

Chair: Erin Bell, University of Detroit Mercy

1. "Carson McCullers Was Here: Graffiti as Modernist Self-Expression in *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*," Jason Vance, Middle Tennessee University
2. "Jester Clane's Destination Illuminated by the Musical References of *Tristan and Isolde* in *Clock Without Hands*," Saori Iwatsuka, Nara Women's University
3. "Red and Crazy Summer: At the Crossroads of Loneliness, Marginalization, and Communism with Langston Hughes and Carson McCullers," Charlotte Aexel, Georgia College & State University
4. "'Nothing Human is Alien to me': Carson McCullers and isolation as a narrative principle," Giovana Proença Gonçalves, University of São Paulo
5. "Queer Studies in YA Lit: Carson McCullers and the Tomboy Figure," Kristen Proehl, SUNY Brockport

**Session 16-C Charles Olson, Vincent Ferrini, and Jonathan Bayliss in Gloucester: Poetry, Prose, and Place (Essex North-East)**

Organized by the Charles Olson Society and the Jonathan Bayliss Society

Chair: Josh Hoeynck, Case Western Reserve University

1. "The Idea of Tragedy in Jonathan Bayliss' *Prologos*," Gary Grieve-Carlson, Lebanon Valley College
2. "Dogtown Boulders in Space and Time," Jim Cocola, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
3. "Feathers, Jewels, and the Birth of a City: Charles Olson's Contextual Configurations," Katherin Yu, Stanford University
4. "Southern Geographies and Technics of Relation in Olson's *Maximus Poems*," Ben Lee, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

**Session 16-D Walt Whitman and Visual Culture (Great Republic)**

Organized by the Whitman Studies Association

Chair: Stephanie M. Blalock, University of Iowa

1. "Whitmania in the Classroom: Visual Remixes and Creative-Critical Synergies," Maura D'Amore, St. Michael's College
2. "Sites of Violence, Places of Memory: Representing the Civil War Prison Camp in Whitman's *Memoranda during the War* and *Specimen Days*," Tara C. Foley, Baylor University
3. "Against the End of Life: Aging and Immortality in Walt Whitman's Portraits," Satoshi Ohnishi, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
4. "Whales in Bronze: Whitman, Melville, and the Public Design of Reputation," Tony McGowan, West Point

**Session 16-E Sherwood Anderson, Writer in the World (Essex North-West)**

Organized by Sherwood Anderson Society

Chair: Sara Kosiba, Northeast Ohio Medical University

1. "Anderson as Lexicographer: The South American Trip and his Spanish Lessons," Doug Sheldon, University of Illinois Chicago
2. "Seeing the Thirdspace Forest Through the Grotesque Trees: A Psychoanalytical Criticism of Sherwood Anderson's *Winesburg, Ohio*," Scott Ennis, Independent Scholar
3. "Beautiful Country, Darkening Fields: Reading the Land in Sherwood Anderson's *Winesburg, Ohio*," Ross K. Tangedal, University of Wisconsin, Stevens-Point.
4. "Sherwood Anderson and Chicago," Sharon Hamilton, Independent Scholar

**Session 16-F Emerging Genres (St. George A)**

Chair: Holly Garrett, Georgia Southern University

1. "Regarding the Tragedy of Others: True Crime After 9/11 and the Construction of American Vulnerability," Pinar Tasdemir, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2. "Defining Genre: Truman Capote's Nonfiction Novels and Problems of Form," Shelton Waldrep, University of Southern Maine
3. "Afro-Gothic Legacies and Speculative Futures: Afro-Gothicism in Toni Morrison and Tananarive Due," Cindy Murillo, Colorado State University
4. "The Poet as Metaphysical Detective," Scarlett Higgins, The University of New Mexico



### **Session 16-G Roundtable: Teaching the American Gothic (Empire)**

Organized by the Society for the Study of the American Gothic (SSAG)

Co-Moderators: Bridget Marshall, University of Massachusetts, Lowell and Lawrence Lorraine Hazel-Mullen, SUNY Schenectady County Community College

1. "Curating the American Gothic: A Classroom Case Study," Mike D'Alessandro, Duke University
2. "Teaching Addiction Crises through the American Gothic," Eric Bjornson, Boston University
3. "Wasteland Pedagogy & War Gothic," Dan Mrozowski, Trinity College, Hartford
4. "Teaching the American Gothic in a Tense Political Climate," Emily Banks, Franklin College
5. "Electronically Eluding the Eyerolls: A Digital Humanities Defense of Early Gothic Texts," Todd Hagstette, University of South Carolina, Aiken
6. "Teaching the Gothic to Medical Students," Mimi Manyin, University of Birmingham

### **Session 16-H Asian American Fiction after 1965: A Book Talk with Christopher T. Fan (Helicon)**

Organized by the Circle for Asian American Literary Studies

Chair: Rei Magosaki, Chapman University

Author: Christopher T. Fan, UC Irvine

Respondent/Interviewer: Leland Tabares, Colorado College

### **Session 16-I Society for the Study of American Travel Writing (Adams)**

Organized by the Society for the Study of American Travel Writing

Chair: Shealeen Meaney, Russell Sage College

1. "'In the New State': Margaret Fuller and National Absorption." Howard Horwitz. University of Utah
2. "Benito Juárez's Exile in New Orleans: Stagnation, Indigeneity, and Aqueous Transnational State Formation." Niall Peach, University of Cincinnati
3. "Expectation of Actualization: Publication Pressures in Women's Contemporary Travel Writing using *Wild*." Amy Welch, Marshall University

### **Session 16-J Future Directions for the Study of 20th-Century American Poetry: A Roundtable (Staffordshire)**

Organized by the Society for the Study of American Poetry

Moderator: Robert von Hallberg, Claremont McKenna College

1. William J. Harris, University of Kansas
2. Joshua Kotin, Princeton University
3. Leland de la Durantaye, Claremont McKenna College
4. Karen Kilcup, UNC Greensboro
5. V. Joshua Adams, University of Louisville

**Saturday, May 24, 2025**  
**11:30 am – 12:50 pm**

**Session 17-A Gothic Blackness: Exploring Ethnogothic, New Black Gothic and Afro-Gothic Themes in Literature (Empire)**

Organized by the Society for the Study of the American Gothic

Moderator: DeAnna Daniels, University of Arizona

1. "The Haunted Plantation: Afro-Gothic Geographies in Hannah Crafts' *The Bondwoman's Narrative*," Kay R. Barrett, Stanford University
2. "'Home Sick': Colonial Consumption in Helen Oyeyemi's *White is for Witching*," Ilana Larkin, American Antiquarian Society
3. "'You Can Still Cast Him Out!': Black Religion, Time-Travel, and Property-as-Battleground in Lovecraft Country's Holy Ghost/Which House," Taurean Webb, DePaul University
4. "Religiosity and Gothic Internalization in Black Women's Horror Fiction," Jerry Rafiki Jenkins, University of Georgia

**Session 17-B Media and Film (Essex North-East)**

Chair: Savannah Barrow, Georgia Southern University

1. "Jordan Peel's Animals," Grace Heneks, Texas A&M University
2. "'Greenface' and the Minstrel Legacies of the Wicked Witch of the West," Christine B. Case, University of Central Arkansas
3. "The Perfect Asian Dream Boy," Leland Tabares, Colorado College
4. "Technosymbiotic Hauntings: Identifying AI's Spectral Shift in Mike Flanagan's *The Fall of the House of Usher*," Joshua Collica, California Baptist University

**Session 17-C American Writers in Paris: Then and Now (Helicon)**

Organizer and Chair: Ferdâ Asya, Independent Scholar, USA

1. "Worlds Beyond All Fact and Flesh: William Faulkner, Paul Cézanne, and the Phenomenology of Visual Art," Bernard T. Joy, Independent Scholar, Scotland
2. "William Gardner Smith's *The Stone Face*: A Novel Buried in Obscurity for Too Long," Melinda Knight, Montclair State University, New Jersey
3. "French Chic American Style: Self-Governance and the Promise of Social Distinction in Debra Ollivier's *Entre Nous: A Woman's Guide to Finding Her Inner French Girl*," Malin Lidström Brock, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden
4. "Jake Lamar's Expatriate Mysteries: Exercising the Ghosts of Transcontinental Paris Noir," Richard Swope, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras

### **Session 17-D Whitman's Legacies (Great Republic)**

Organized by the Whitman Studies Association

Chair: Edward Whitley, Lehigh University

1. "‘A revelation of light and heat and identity’: How Jewish American Women Poets Have Shaped Walt Whitman," Dara Barnat, Tel Aviv University
2. "Whitman's Web: The Political Poet 2.0," Micah Bateman, University of Iowa
3. "From the ‘Barbaric Yawp’ to *Howl*: Walt Whitman and Allen Ginsberg's Queer Form," Sarah Coduto, Stanford University
4. "The Visual Intimacy of Comrades: Reading the Visuality of ‘Whitman's Men,’” Jan Maramot, University of California, Irvine

### **Session 17-E John Dos Passos: From *Manhattan Transfer* to U.S.A. (Courier)**

Organized by the John Dos Passos Society

Chair: Aaron Shaheen, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

1. "Fragmentation of Identity in John Dos Passos's *Manhattan Transfer*," Lily Grainger, University of Wollongong
2. "Manhood and Failure in John Dos Passos's *Manhattan Transfer*," Keiko Misugi, Kobe College

### **Session 17-F New Directions in Mary McCarthy Scholarship (St. George A)**

Organized by the Mary McCarthy Society

Chair: Sophia Wilson Niehaus, Brandeis University

1. "'Queer' Writers and Critics: Mary McCarthy, George Kelly, and Being Irish in WASP America," Mary Burke, University of Connecticut
2. "Pandemic Orphans and Prosthetic Grief: Mourning as Disability in Memories of Catholic Girlhood," Susan M. Stabile, Texas A&M University

### **Session 17-G F. Scott Fitzgerald I (Essex North-West)**

Organized by the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society

Chair: Maggie Gordon Froehlich, The Pennsylvania State University, Hazleton

1. "Ships, Trains, and Automobiles: Transportation and the American Dream in *The Great Gatsby*," John Gruesser, Sam Houston State University
2. "Teaching the Financial Mystery in Fitzgerald's 'How to Live on \$36,000 a Year,'" Fredrik Tydal, Stockholm School of Economics
3. "F. Scott Fitzgerald and Alfred Hitchcock – Train Scenes," Tom Flynn, Independent Scholar
4. "‘An Author's Mother’: Fitzgerald's 1936 *Esquire* article and new details about Mollie Fitzgerald," Mary Jane LaVigne, Independent Scholar

### **Session 17-H H.D. and Hellenism: Emerging Perspectives (St. George D)**

Organized by the H.D. International Society

Co-Chairs: Demetres P. Tryphonopoulos, University of Alberta, and Celena E. Kusch, University of South Carolina Upstate

1. "‘Where the Dark Sea Met the Sand’: Choral Representations of Thetis in H.D.’s Hellenic Poetic," Anna Fyta, Athens College
2. "H.D., Mary Renault, and Remaking Achilles," Miranda Dunham-Hickman, McGill University

### **Session 17-I Rethinking Domestic Spaces (Adams)**

Organized by Tine Sommer, University of Southern Denmark

Chair: Christine Holbo, Arizona State University

1. "(Un)Domestic Emplacements: Louisa May Alcott and the Shift from Victorian to Modern Domesticity," Anna De Biasio, University of Bergamo
2. "Hotels, Modernism, and Domesticity," Deborah Clarke, Arizona State University
3. "Nostalgia and the Childhood Home in Jessie Fauset’s *The Chinaberry Tree* (1931) and Helen Hull’s *Heat Lightning* (1932)," Tine Sommer, University of Southern Denmark
4. "Menacing Interiors: Domestic Space in Raymond Carver’s Stories," Andrea Pitozzi, University of Bergamo

### **Session 17-J Passing It On I (Staffordshire)**

Moderator and Chair: Richard Kopley, Penn State DuBois

Regarding that which is most valuable in our profession, our late friend and colleague Joel Myerson encouraged Daniel Shealy to "pass it on" to others. Perhaps it could be a rare object or a remarkable discovery or an archival tip or a critical idea or a valuable piece of advice or simply the pleasure of the work. The two round-table discussions titled "Passing It On" will focus on what has been passed on to us, what we have passed on to others, and what we would like to pass on to those gathered in the room. This is the first of two round-table discussions that will constitute a meditation on how generosity has shaped, is shaping, and will shape our profession.

1. Wyn Kelley, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2. Leland Person, University of Cincinnati
3. Monika Elbert, Montclair State University
4. Barbara Cantalupo, Penn State
5. Ken Price, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

### **Session 17-K Latine/x Feminisms (Parliament)**

Organized by the Latina/o/x Literature and Culture Society

Chair: Karina A. Vado, Johns Hopkins University

1. "From the Countryside to the City: The Transformation of Negi in *Almost a Woman*," Nilsa Rodríguez-Jaca, Culinary institute of America
2. "Elegguá Eats First: Afro Diasporic Regeneration in Helen Oyeyemi's *The Opposite House*," Ivette Rodríguez Berdote, University of Florida
3. "Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa's Daughters of the Stone: Rendering Visible & Imperfectly Human the Experiences of Diverse Afro-Puerto Rican Women," María Luisa Arroyo Cruzado, Binghamton University
4. "Sexual Violence and the Trans Latina Condition," Esperanza Santos, Rutgers University-Newark

### **Session 17-L Between Verse and the Universe: a Discussion Panel on Maxine Hong Kingston (Defender)**

Organized by the Maxine Hong Kingston Association

Chair: Erik Mortenson, Lake Michigan College

1. Tina Cane, Poet Laureate of Rhode Island
2. Fred Merchant, Suffolk University
3. John Whalen-Bridge, National University of Singapore

**Saturday, May 24, 2025**  
**1:00 pm – 2:20 pm**

### **Session 18-A Scenes of Resistance and Self-Discovery: Elizabeth Oakes Smith 1833-1888**

**Organized by the Elizabeth Oakes Smith Society (Essex North-East)**

Chair: Cynthia Patterson, University of South Florida

1. "'Where the voice of man is a feeble reed:' Women and Mountains in Nineteenth-Century America," Rachael DeWitt, Washington University
2. "'Moral Treason:' Oakes Smith's Early Editorship, the Anti-Matrimonial Society and the Graham Riot," Avery Yale Kamila, Independent Scholar
3. "'The Queen of Tramps:' Oakes Smith's late manuscript on Women, Labor, and Capital," Timothy H. Scherman, Northeastern Illinois University

### **Session 18-B Freeman's Historicisms (Courier)**

Organized by the Mary E. Wilkins Freeman Society

Chair: Samaine Lockwood, George Mason University

1. "Failed Motherhood and Gothic Hauntings in Mary E. Wilkins Freeman's Stories," Monika Elbert, Montclair State University
2. "The Orphaned Child in Mary E. Wilkins Freeman's Short Stories," Natasha Kinne, McGill University
3. "Racial and Regional Reconciliation in Mary E. Wilkins Freeman's Historical Novel *The Heart's Highway*," Samaine Lockwood, George Mason University

### **Session 18-C Moore's TransFORMations (Helicon)**

Organized by the Marianne Moore Society

Chair: Sally Connolly, University of Houston

1. "Darling Langston, I am crazy about your wonderful songs': Marianne Moore's Fan Art," Celine Shanosky, Harvard University
2. "The Indexed Irreducibility of Marianne Moore's Observations," Brenna Courtney, Independent Scholar
3. "Moore's Action Poems," Elizabeth Gregory, University of Houston

### **Session 18-D Emerson's Like-Minded Transcendentalists (Empire)**

Organized by the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society

Chair: Prentiss Clark, University of South Dakota

1. "Charles Gordon Ames and Emerson," Susan Dunston, New Mexico Tech
2. "Emerson and Seeding Corpses in Nineteenth-Century American Literature," Jessica Elkaim, University of Toronto
3. "'A Good Symbol is the Best Argument': Emerson, Lincoln, and the Aesthetics of Democracy," Stephen Snyder, South Dakota State University
4. "Emerson, The Free Religious Association, and Postbellum Religious Reform," Todd H. Richardson, University of Texas, Permian Basin

### **Session 18-E Roundtable: C.D. Wright (Great Republic)**

Organizer and Chair: Rachel Trousdale, Framingham State University

1. "'Words Appeared / By Which She Wanted to Live': C.D. Wright's Realism," Stephanie Burt, Harvard University
2. "The Right Road Lost: Atmospheric Narrative, Allegory, and America's Original Sin in C.D. Wright's *One With Others*," Jennifer Sperry Steinorth, University of Michigan
3. "Temporal Experience in Deborah Luster and C.D. Wright's *One Big Self*," Kate Partridge, Regis University

### **Session 18-F The Document in Nineteenth-Century U.S. Literature (St. George A)**

Organizer: Alexander J. Ashland, Viterbo University

Chair: John Whalen-Bridge, National University of Singapore

1. "Misleading Statistics, Faltering Empiricism: The Aesthetics of Documentation in Public Health," Yoonsuh Kim, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
2. "Slave Rights in Nineteenth Century Narratives of Cornwall Estate," Kierra Duncan, Princeton University
3. "'fraught with so much seed': Documentary Ecologies of Race and Gender in Antebellum U.S. Fiction," Alexander J. Ashland, Viterbo University

### **Session 18-G Women Representing Grief (Essex North-West)**

Organized by: Rachel Elin Nolan, Manchester Metropolitan University

Chair: Jacqueline Emery, SUNY Old Westbury

1. "The Life of Margaret Fuller is in Everybody's Hands': Caroline Healey Dall on the Stakes of a Feminist's Death," Alice de Galzain, Sorbonne Université
2. "The excellent becomes the permanent': Jane Addams' Humanist Defence of Individual Survival," Rachel Elin Nolan, Manchester Metropolitan University
3. "Like Snow in May': Death, Grief and Ethical Responsibility in Naomi Wallace's Theatre," Daphne Orlandi, University of Catania

### **Session 18-H Intersectional Struggles from the 1970s to Today (Parliament)**

Organized by the African American Literature and Culture Society

Chair: Justin Smith, Randolph-Macon College

1. "Revolutionary Blueprints: Ma'aticity in the Combahee River Collective Statement," Michelle Taylor, Rutgers University
2. "Nubia's Real Responsibilities: Activism as Heroism," Akash Belsare, University of Illinois Springfield
3. "Contemporary African American School Novels: Alexis Henderson and Joelle Wellington," Melanie A. Marotta, College of William and Mary

### **Session 18-I Hemingway and Intertextuality (Adams)**

Organized by the Hemingway Society

Chair: Ross K. Tangedal, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

1. "Hemingway in Love and War as Revealed in Newly Opened Letters to Archibald MacLeish," Linda Patterson Miller, Penn State Abington
2. "Exodus and the Camino, Hemingway's Road to Thrace," Gloria Monaghan, Wentworth Institute of Technology
3. "Edenic Failures in Hemingway and Baldwin," Morgan Lewis, Boston University
4. "Cowboys and Indians in the Twenty-First Century: Cormac McCarthy's John Cole, Race, and Hemingway's Code-Hero," Marc Dudley, North Carolina State University

### **Session 18-J Ecological Concerns (Essex North-Center)**

Chair: Maegan Bishop, Georgia Southern University

1. "Novel Immersions: Diving Ecologies in 21<sup>st</sup> Century American Fiction," Shealeen A. Meaney, Russell Sage College
2. "Aimee Bender's Vibrant and Enchanting Things," Liz Popko, UC San Diego
3. "They knew this stuff was harmful/and they put it in the water anyway': Water Literature and the Environmental and/as Public Health Crisis of Forever Chemicals," Tierney S. Powell, Grand Valley State University

**Saturday, May 24, 2025**  
**2:30 pm – 3:50 pm**

**Session 19-A Kate Chopin in the Classroom/ Teaching Through Technology (Empire)**

Organized by The Kate Chopin Society

Chair: Quinn Moyer, Duquesne University

1. "Edna Pontellier's Instagram Profile: Teaching *The Awakening*," Heather Ostman, SUNY Westchester Community College
2. "Teaching Chopin in the 21st Century: Social Media and the Feminist Profile," Elif S. Armbruster, Suffolk University
3. "Existentialism and Vagabond Women: Teaching Kate Chopin in the Contemporary Classroom," Stacy Stingle, Louisiana State University

**Session 19-B Asian American Literature after 1965 (Helicon)**

Organized by the Circle for Asian American Literary Studies

Chair: Timothy August, Stony Brook University

1. "Southeast Asian American Literature as a Multiply Minor Form," Annabeth Leow, National University of Singapore
2. "'I culled my memory for gruesome details': Reproducing Trauma and Situating Pain in Anthony So's 'Generational Differences,'" Victor Jeong, Duke University
3. "*The Sympathizer* in the Singaporean Classroom: Solidarity, Complicity, and the Ethics of Remembering in Southeast Asia," Samuel Caleb Wee, Nanyang Technological University

**Session 19-C Forwarding: The Reach of Black Mountain Poetry (Courier)**

Organized by The Charles Olson Society

Chair: Jeffrey Gardiner, Independent Scholar

1. "Proprioception is the Mid-Thing," Maia Harris, Concordia University
2. "Finding the Voice of Paradise: Digging into Ronald Johnson's Black Mountain Roots," Jeff Davis, Independent Scholar
3. "Politicizing the Breath and Field in Contemporary Projective Verse," Anne Duncan, University of Washington



### **Session 19-D Evelyn Scott and Women Writers (Essex North-West)**

Organized by the Evelyn Scott Society

Chair: Claudia Milstead, University of Northern Colorado

1. "Fixed Expression of Bewilderment': Linking Grotesque Motherhood in the Work of Evelyn Scott and Flannery O'Connor," Rachel Bryan, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
2. "Love and Conscience: A Side-by-Side Analysis of Evelyn Scott's Original and Revised Versions of Her Play," Jeffery Kennedy, Arizona State University
3. "The Brazil of Evelyn Scott and Elizabeth Bishop," Maria das Graças Salgado, Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro

### **Session 19-E New Perspectives on the Novel (St. George A)**

Chair: Jeanne Reesman, University of Texas at San Antonio

1. "Glitch in the Novel: Narrative Breakdown and Jewish-American Literary History in *Forest Dark* by Nicole Krauss," Claire Crispen, The Pennsylvania State University
2. "On Prospects for Transcending Noir's Limits: What We can Learn from Hemingway's *To Have and Have Not*," Ty Hawkins, University of Central Arkansas
3. "Redefining the Revisionist Western Through Its Homegrown Writers," Jess Titterington, Montclair State University
4. "Narrative Time and Perspective in Maria Cummins' *The Lamplighter*," Kate Louthain, Rice University

### **Session 19-F Organized by the Kay Boyle Society (Essex North-East)**

Chair: Tanya Tromble-Giraud, Aix-Marseille Université

1. Katie A. Warczak, University of Pittsburgh
2. Verna Kale, The Pennsylvania State University
3. Victor Turks, Independent Scholar

### **Session 19-G Ecologies of Health in US Literature (St. George D)**

Organizer and Chair: Maria Farland, Fordham University

1. "Domesticating the Ecogothic: Germs, Gender, and Genre," James Fitz Gerald, Bentley University
2. "Eric Walrond, US Empire, and the Global Contexts of American Ecosickness," Bassam Sidiki, University of Texas at Austin
3. "In This Here Place, We Flesh': Hush Harbors and Environmental Healing in Toni Morrison's Fiction," Martha Cutter, University of Connecticut

### **Session 19-H Wallace Stevens's Essays - Session 1 (Adams)**

Organized by the Wallace Stevens Society

Chair: Andrew Osborn, University of Dallas

1. "‘Erudite in Happiness’: Stevens as Amateur," William Burns, University College London
2. "Stevens's Essays and the Failure to Explain," Ben Philipps, University of Oxford
3. "The Freshness of Poetic Images in Stevens's 'Effects of Analogy,'" Katherin Yu, Stanford University

### **Session 19-I Passing It On II (Staffordshire)**

Organized and Moderated by Richard Kopley, Penn State DuBois

Regarding that which is most valuable in our profession, our late friend and colleague Joel Myerson encouraged Daniel Shealy to "pass it on" to others. Perhaps it could be a rare object or a remarkable discovery or an archival tip or a critical idea or a valuable piece of advice or simply the pleasure of the work. The two round-table discussions titled "Passing It On" will focus on what has been passed on to us, what we have passed on to others, and what we would like to pass on to those gathered in the room. This is the first of two round-table discussions that will constitute a meditation on how generosity has shaped, is shaping, and will shape our profession.

1. Sandra H. Petrulionis, Penn State Altoona
2. Megan Marshall, Emerson College
3. Phyllis Cole, Penn State Brandywine
4. Robert Sattelmeyer, Georgia State University
6. Daniel Shealy, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

**Saturday, May 24, 2025**

**4:00 pm – 5:20 pm**

### **Session 20-A Existential Prisons: Freedom, Choice, and Authenticity in Kate Chopin (Empire)**

Organized by the Kate Chopin Society

Chair: Stacy Stingle, Louisiana State University

1. "Indeterminacy and Ephemerality as Possibility in the Fiction of Kate Chopin," Quinn Moyer, Duquesne University
2. "Existentialist Authenticity and Friedrich Schleiermacher's Concept of 'Eigenthümlichkeit': Understanding a Woman's Choice in Kate Chopin's 'A Point at Issue,'" Heidi Podlasli-Labrenz, University of Bremen (Germany)
3. "The Queer Nature of Liminal Spaces in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*," Lee Cotman, SUNY Empire State University
4. "Narrative Chance, Cinematic Choices, and Visions of a 'True Self' in Film Adaptations of Chopin," John Staunton, Eastern Michigan University.

## **Session 20-B Film Adaptation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Blithedale Romance* (Great Republic)**

Organized by Cody Knotts, Eternity Box Films

This presentation discusses the process of cinematic adaptation involved in making the first feature film based on Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Blithedale Romance* including an exclusive first look at several scenes from the project, which is slated for release in 2026. The film is part of a series of previously unadapted classics being brought to the screen by Eternity Box Films in collaboration with literary scholars. Director Cody Knotts will explore the challenges of bringing this complex text to the screen and the ways in which each principal actor's literary advisor helped to shape his or her performance. Knotts will also discuss his production company's upcoming adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's *Behind a Mask*.

Our adaptation of *The Blithedale Romance* was made with support and advice from the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society.

## **Session 20-C Shirley Jackson and Folk Horror (Helicon)**

Organized by the Shirley Jackson Society

Chair: Emily Banks, Franklin College

1. "Witchcraft and Dark Ecology in *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* (1962), *Lucifer and the Child* (1945) and *Elizabeth: A Novel of the Unnatural* (1976)," Miranda Corcoran, University College Cork
2. "Little Intimacies, Terrible Things: Routine Rituals and Monstrous Domesticity in *The Road Through the Wall*," Emily Naser-Hall, Western Carolina University
3. "'A cruel, pointed parody': Suburban Folk Horror and Social Tyranny in Shirley Jackson's *The Road Through the Wall*," Miriam Richer, University of New Brunswick
4. "Naivety and Passivity: The Real Horror in Shirley Jackson's Short Fiction," Mimi Manyin, University of Birmingham

## **Session 20-D Southern Reconsiderations (Essex North-East)**

Chair: Deborah Wilson, Arkansas Tech University

1. "Haunting Back in the Twenty-first Century: Black and Queer Ghosts of the American South," Brock Rustin, Claremont Graduate University
2. "The Limits of Sympathy and Union in Lydia Maria Child's Public Correspondence," Bonnie Carr O'Neill, Mississippi State University
3. "Southern Boyhood in Post-Bellum Literature," Afrin Zeenat, Dallas College

### **Session 20-E Trauma in American Literature (Essex North-West)**

Chair: Wendy Martin, Claremont University

1. "In search of Yda H. Addis: The Fascinating Life, Tragic Death, and Enduring Legacy of a Once-Forgotten Writer," Rene H. Treviño, California State University, Long Beach
2. "The Monster Child Turned Theorist: Queer Childhood in Dorothy Allison's *Cavedweller*," Julia Reagan, Villanova University
3. "Sonic Representations of Otherness in Melissa Lozada-Oliva's Poem 'Mami said it will be quick, don't cry,'" Andrea Bernal Lozada, Arizona State University
4. "'Black Wing' Poetics: The Haunting Legacy of Len Robert's Lyric-Narrative," Robert Fillman, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania

### **Session 20-F Form and Function II (St. George A)**

Chair: Rosaleen Crowley, Butler University

1. "Black Gatherings in Jerico Brown's *The Tradition*: or, Parasitism and Duplex Form," Wyatt Sarafin, Harvard University
2. "The Apparatus of Knowledge: C.S. Giscombe and the Poetics of Knowledge," James McCorkle, Hobart College and William Smith College
3. "Poetry and Blindness: Empathetic Reading Through Russell Brakefield," Olivia Thomakos, University of Rhode Island
4. "Time and the Minor Senses in the Work of Anne Boyer," Anne Shea, California College of the Arts

### **Session 20-G Reappraising Faulkner (Courier)**

Organized by the William Faulkner Society

Chair: Rebecca Nisetich, University of Southern Maine

1. "'The Notlanguage of *Absalom, Absalom!*: Meaning-making and Indeterminability in Literary Texts," Bryce Wallace, Yale University
2. "Faulkner and the University- Past, Present, Future (?)," Peter Lurie, University of Richmond
3. "The Ethics of Alterity in Faulkner's *A Fable*," Yuhua Tong, Peking University

### **Session 20-H The Silence in the Text: Redressing the Echoes of the Past (Parliament)**

Organized by the African American Literature and Culture Society

Chair: Sabrina Evans, Howard University

1. "Ghostwriting as a Form of Positive Mimesis: Mercy in the Reclamation of the Submerged Self within the Double Consciousness of Phillis Wheatley," Summer Tate, Howard University
2. "New Players, Same Game: Black Writers and the Publishing Industry 100 Years Later," Victoria Moten, Howard University
3. "The Court of Public Opinion: Richard Wright's Indictment of the News Media," Fari Cannon, Howard University

### **Session 20-I Wallace Stevens's Essays - Session 2 (Defender)**

Organized by the Wallace Stevens Society

Chair: William Burns, University College London

1. "Spiritual Crisis, Irrationalism, and Stevens's Theory of Poetry," Adam Staley Groves, Singapore University of Technology and Design
2. "A Hybrid Poet: Stevens, James, and the Categorical Challenge," Peter Huhne, Columbia University
3. "'*Deliciae* of the Spirit': Stevens, Villon, and Poetic Theory," Kathryn Mudgett, Massachusetts Maritime Academy

### **Session 20-J How a Scholarly Community Makes an Edited Book, e.g., Rethinking Kerouac: Afterlives, Continuities (St. George D)**

Organized by the Beat Studies Association

Chair: John Whalen-Bridge, National University of Singapore

1. Erik Mortenson, Lake Michigan College
2. Aldon Lynn Nielsen, Pennsylvania State University
3. Kurt Hemmer, Harper College
4. Nancy Grace, Wooster College

### **Session 20-K Susan Glaspell's *Inheritors*: A Staged Reading (Adams)**

Organized by the International Susan Glaspell Society

This session presents a staged reading of Glaspell's play (abridged by Cheryl Black): 4:00-5:20 pm; Post-show Discussion: 5:30-6:15 pm.

When Susan Glaspell's *Inheritors* premiered in 1921, America was in the throes of a postwar conservative backlash, as the "100 % Americanism" movement fostered attitudes of isolationism, nationalism, xenophobia, racism, and the suppression of free speech. The play centers on the impact of the movement on a college campus – students from India deported for anti-colonial activism, a student imprisoned for violating the Espionage Act, a professor pressured to keep quiet on political issues, and the political awakening of the play's central character. Described by actor/director Eva Le Gallienne as a "burning challenge to America," the play remains profoundly relevant today.

Participants: Cheryl Black, Anne Fletcher, Jeff Kennedy, Andy Harper, Joseph G. Ramsey, Stuart Hecht, and Lyndsi Skewes

**Saturday, May 24, 2025**  
**5:30 pm – 6:15 pm**

- Session 21-A Business Meeting: Kate Chopin International Society (Empire)**
- Session 21-B Post-Show Discussion, Film Adaptation of Hawthorne's *Blithedale Romance* (Great Republic)**
- Session 21-C Business Meeting: Shirley Jackson Society (Helicon)**
- Session 21-D Business Meeting: Whitman Studies Association (St. George A)**
- Session 21-E Business Meeting: Sherwood Anderson Society (St. George D)**
- Session 21-F Business Meeting: H.D. International Society (Essex North-East)**
- Session 21-G Business Meeting: Ralph Waldo Emerson Society (Essex North-Center)**
- Session 21-H Business Meeting: John Dos Passos Society (Essex North-West)**
- Session 21-I Business Meeting: Elizabeth Oakes Smith Society (North Star)**
- Session 21-J Business Meeting: Evelyn Scott Society (Courier)**
- Session 21-K Post-Show Discussion, International Susan Glaspell Society (Adams)**
- Session 21-L Business Meeting: Mary E. Wilkins Freeman Society (St. George B)**
- Session 21-M Business Meeting: Marianne Moore Society (St. George C)**
- Session 21-N Business Meeting: Society for the Study of American Poetry organizing meeting for conference in Salem, MA on March 26-28, 2026 (Parliament)**
- Session 21-O Business Meeting: Carson McCullers Society (Defender)**

**Saturday, May 24, 2025**  
**6:00 pm – 7:15 pm**  
**(Staffordshire)**

**Closing Reception**  
**All conference participants are invited**

**Thank you for your support of the American Literature Association**

**Sunday, May 25, 2025  
1:00 pm**

**The Nathaniel Hawthorne Society Invitation**

The Nathaniel Hawthorne Society invites members of the American Literature Association to join us for the House of the Seven Gables Annual Lecture:

Robert Levine: "Haunted Houses: *The House of the Seven Gables* and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*."

Location:  
The House of the Seven Gables  
115 Derby St, Salem, MA 01970

In order to make it possible for ALA members to attend and have a maritime experience, we have arranged group pricing on the ferry from Boston to Salem and back on Sunday, May 25. Tickets can be purchased at the following link: URL for Paypal: <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/SJS5TL5BFSJZU>

Boston departure at 11:45 am: 1 Long Wharf, Boston, MA  
Salem departure at 4:00 pm: 10 Blaney Street, Salem, MA

We look forward to welcoming you to Salem at the conclusion of the ALA conference in Boston!

## **American Fiction: Forms, Genres, and Traditions**

**A Symposium Sponsored by the American Literature Association**

October 16-18, 2025

Drury Plaza Hotel in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Conference Director: Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University

Keynote Speaker: Hertha Dawn Sweet Wong, UC Berkeley

Please send all proposals to the conference director at [ab23@princeton.edu](mailto:ab23@princeton.edu)  
as soon as possible and no later than July 15, 2025.

## **American Poetry**

**A Symposium Sponsored by the Society for the Study of American Poetry and the ALA**

March 26-28, 2026

Hawthorne Hotel in Salem, Massachusetts

Conference Director: Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University

Keynote Speaker: Evie Schockley, Rutgers University

Please send all proposals to the conference director at [ab23@princeton.edu](mailto:ab23@princeton.edu)  
as soon as possible and no later than October 1, 2025.

For further information on the ALA symposia on American Fiction and American Poetry, please consult the  
fuller calls for proposals posted at [www.americanliteratureassociation.org](http://www.americanliteratureassociation.org)

## **American Nightmares II: Return to Salem**

**A Symposium sponsored by the Society for the Study of the American Gothic and the ALA**

March 19th – 21st, 2026

Hawthorne Hotel in Salem, Massachusetts

Conference Co-Directors:

Jeffrey Andrew Weinstock, Central Michigan University, ([Jeffrey.Weinstock@cmich.edu](mailto:Jeffrey.Weinstock@cmich.edu))

Jennifer Schell ([jschell5@alaska.edu](mailto:jschell5@alaska.edu)).

Keynote Speakers: Victor LaValle and Siân Silyn Roberts

Please send all proposals and queries to the conference co-directors by October 1, 2025. Please consult  
the fuller cfp posted on the SSAG website at [www.americangothicsociety.com](http://www.americangothicsociety.com).