The Society for the Study of American Poetry invites proposals for two sessions to be held at the 37th annual American Literature Association conference in Chicago, IL, May 20-23, 2026. The proposals are for a conventional paper session on "Mediating American Poetry" and a roundtable on the topic of "Teaching American Poetry Now." Details are provided below. The deadline for submission is February 15th, 2026.

Panel: Mediating American Poetry

This panel invites papers that examine American poetry through the lens of media, broadly construed and across historical periods. We seek work that explores how poetic production, circulation, reception, and interpretation have been shaped by media forms—from print technologies and the history of the book to digital platforms, archives, and social media.

American poetry has always been mediated: by material formats, editorial practices, performance contexts, recording technologies, and now by databases, algorithms, and networked publics. This panel aims to bring together scholars working across periods and methodologies to consider how changing media environments have shaped poetic form, authorship, readership, and cultural meaning.

We welcome papers that address (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- Print culture, periodicals, little magazines, chapbooks, and book history

- Manuscripts, archives, and editorial or bibliographic approaches

- Sound, performance, radio, film, and other audiovisual media

- Digital archives, data-driven criticism, and platform studies

- Social media, online poetry communities, and contemporary circulation

- Remediation, intermediality, and poetic responses to new technologies

- Media theory, materiality, and the politics of poetic transmission

- Comparative or transhistorical approaches to media and American poetry

We encourage submissions from scholars working in all periods of American poetry and from diverse methodological perspectives. The panel seeks to foster conversation across temporal, formal, and media-specific boundaries.

Submission Guidelines:
Please submit a 250–300 word abstract and a brief bio as soon as possible and no later than January 29, 2026 to Nikki Skillman nskillma@iu.edu

Roundtable: "Teaching American Poetry Now"

This roundtable invites participants to reflect on the challenges, possibilities, and urgencies of teaching American poetry in the current moment. Across institutions, student populations, and media environments, instructors are rethinking how—and why—we teach American poetry now.

Rather than traditional conference papers, this roundtable emphasizes conversation, shared pedagogical practices, and brief interventions. We seek participants who wish to discuss classroom experiences, curricular innovations, and critical frameworks for engaging students with American poetry amid shifting cultural, political, and technological conditions.

Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

- Teaching American poetry in an era of digital platforms, archives, and AI

- Race, gender, sexuality, disability, and decolonial approaches in the poetry classroom

- Balancing canonical texts with contemporary, experimental, or social media poetry

- Teaching poetry across historical periods or in transnational frameworks

- Assignments, assessment strategies, and active-learning approaches

- Performance, sound, and multimodal pedagogy

- Student resistance, accessibility, and affect in poetry courses

- Institutional constraints and opportunities (general education, online teaching, small colleges, R1s, community colleges)

Participants will be asked to prepare a brief (5–7 minute) provocation or teaching vignette to spark discussion rather than deliver a formal paper. Graduate students, contingent faculty, and instructors at all career stages and institution types are especially encouraged to apply.

Submission Guidelines:
Please submit a 200–250 word proposal outlining your pedagogical focus and discussion contribution and a brief bio as soon as possible and no later than January 29, 2026. 15 to Nikki Skillman (nskillma@iu.edu).