

American Literature Association
May 20-23, 2026
Chicago, IL

Thoreau and Abolition

This roundtable seeks to explore Thoreau's relation to the abolitionist movement, whether through his antislavery writings, his biography, or the legacies and afterlives of some of his more famous essays such as "Civil Disobedience." We are interested in papers that explore any aspect of his political and/or abolitionist thought, his political-economic critiques, or the intertwinement of Thoreau's ecological and antislavery thinking. We also welcome papers that consider how turning to Thoreau or the politics of nineteenth-century abolition in these terrible times provides us with political paths forward.

Please send abstracts and short CVs to Alex Moskowitz (amoskowitz@mtholyoke.edu) by January 15th. Informal inquiries in advance of the deadline are also highly encouraged!