American Literature Association

A Coalition of Societies Devoted to
the Study of American Authors

37th Annual Conference on American Literature
May 20-23, 2026

The Palmer House
17 E. Monroe Street
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 726-7500

Conference Director:
Leslie Petty, Rhodes College

Follow us on Facebook @TheAmericanLiteratureAssociation and on X (formerly known as Twitter) @AmLit_ALA for updates and news, and tweet or post about the conference using #ALA2026

Registration Desk (3rd Floor Salon Foyer):
Wednesday, 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm;
Thursday, 8:00 am – 5:30 pm;
Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm;
Saturday, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Book Exhibits (Salon 3):
Thursday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm;
Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm;
Saturday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

A Note on A/V Equipment:

The 2026 American Literature Association conference will provide a digital projector and screen for the sessions in Indiana, Kimball, Logan, Salon 1, Salon 2, Salon 7, and Salon 12. 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. A technician will be available during the conference to answer any questions or help with set-up. It is no longer possible to add additional a/v equipment to the sessions.

A Note on Navigating the Third Floor of the Palmer House:

Most of our program takes place on the third floor of the Palmer House Hilton. A map of that floor is on the inside back cover of this program. Please note that the third floor encompasses two levels with approximately 10 steps between the two. Thus, to move from the Salon rooms to the other meeting rooms, an individual would either have to take the stairs or take one set of elevators up to the 6th floor, cross the sixth floor to the other elevator bank, and take that elevator down to the third floor.

ALA Book Exhibit (Salon 3):

In Salon 3, the ALA will host a book exhibit of scholarly books featuring several academic presses. More information is forthcoming.

The book exhibit room will be open Thursday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm; Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; Saturday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

ALA Land Acknowledgement:

The Palmer House Chicago Hilton, in which we have gathered to share our scholarly explorations of American literary culture, sits on the unceded traditional homelands of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations and on the site of one of the largest urban American Indian communities in the United States. Other tribes including the Fox, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Miami and Sac have also called this area home or gathered here for trade, travel, and healing. 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.

Acknowledgements:

On behalf of the American Literature Association, I want to thank the society representatives and panelists for their contributions to the conference, as well as the individual participants who proposed papers and panels. Special appreciation to those folks who kindly volunteered to chair sessions. I believe it is more important than ever that we gather to encourage and support each other's work. Creating such an event is an extraordinary amount of work, but so worth it. This conference would not have been possible without the tireless and ongoing efforts of many people. Savannah Barrow at Georgia Southern University worked miracles keeping track of registration and the many iterations of the program. Our other executive assistants, Maegan Bishop, Natalie Fitts, and Callum Rolinson have also offered invaluable contributions. Rene Treviño handles all of ALA's technology and social media needs with expertise and efficiency. I benefit from the advice and good counsel of many members of the ALA Executive Board, especially Kirk Curnutt, Deborah Clarke, and Wendy Martin. Of course, I am enormously grateful to Alfred Bendixen for his deft and fearless leadership of the ALA for 37 years and counting, not to mention his dear friendship, and to Olivia Carr Edenfield, whose grace, kindness, and good judgment have helped guide and ground me for over twenty years. Finally, I'm eternally grateful to my husband, Bo Graham, and my daughters, Merrin and Bryson, for all their love and support.

Leslie Petty, Rhodes College
Executive Coordinator, American Literature Association

Best wishes from the Executive Board for a successful conference

Executive Director: Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University
Director: Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University
Executive Coordinator: Leslie Petty, Rhodes College
Executive Coordinator: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University
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Executive Assistant: Natalie Fitts, Georgia Southern University
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Members with four-year terms (date term expires):
Stephanie Burt, Harvard University (2028)
Deborah Clarke, Arizona State University (2027)
Karen Kilcup, University of North Carolina, Greensboro (2026)
Richard Kopley, Pennsylvania State University (2026)
Wendy Martin, Claremont Graduate University (2029)
James Nagel, University of Georgia (2026)
Jeanne Reesman, University of Texas at San Antonio (2025)
Oliver Scheiding, University of Mainz (2027)
Evie Shockley, Rutgers University (2029)
John Whalen-Bridge, National University of Singapore (2027)
Jeffrey Andrew Weinstock, Central Michigan University (2028)

Special Events:

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

2:00-5:00 pm
Downtown Walking Tour of Literary Chicago

A tour of important literary landmarks led by a member of the Literary Chicago Hall of Fame. Those interested can find more information as well as pay and register here. Space is limited.

8:00-10:00 pm
(3rd Floor Salon Foyer)
Welcome Reception

Stop by for a nightcap after you pick up your registration materials. Registration will be open from 8:00-10:00 pm, as will the bar.

Thursday, May 21, 2026

4:00-5:20 pm
(Salon 12)
Performance of Scenes from *An American Tragedy*: A New Musical based on Theodore Dreiser's Novel

5:30–6:15 pm
(4th Floor: Red Lacquer)
Graduate Student Reception/Mixer

The Executive Board of the American Literature Association wishes to welcome all graduate students to a reception for an engaging time of fellowship. We invite you to share a drink and light hors d'oeuvres, to relax, and to get to know others in your field

6:15-7:45 pm
(4th Floor: Red Lacquer)
Opening Reception and Reading by ZZ Packer

Reception: 6:15-7:00 pm
Reading: 7:00-745 pm

All conference attendees are invited to the opening reception, where we will begin with drinks and light hors d'oeuvres before settling in for the key event, a reading ZZ Packer.

ZZ Packer is a multiple award-winning writer of fiction, who is probably best known for her dazzling collection of stories, *Drinking Coffee Elsewhere,* a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2004, which also won the Commonwealth First Fiction Award, an ALEX Award, and was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award. Her stories have appeared in *The New Yorker, Harper's, Story, Ploughshares, GRANTA, Zoetrope All-Story, Best American Short Stories 2000, Best American Short Stories 2003* and *100 Years of The Best American Short Stories*. Her non-fiction has appeared in the *New York Times Magazine, The Washington Post Magazine, The Believer, The American Prospect, The Oxford American, The Guardian, The New York Times Book Review, Newsweek Online* and *The New Yorker Online.* She is the recipient of a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award, a Whiting Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and the American Academy of Berlin Prize.

ZZ Packer is editor of *New Short Stories from the South: The Year's Best, 2008***.** She is currently at work on a novel about Reconstruction and the Buffalo Soldiers entitled *The Thousands,* an excerpt from which appeared in *The New Yorker's "*20 Under 40 Fiction Issue" and *The 1619 Project.* She currently teaches in the MFA Program at Vanderbilt University.

8:30-10:30 pm
Colin Cutler Musical Performance

Colin Cutler will be performing two sets of original music at Fritzy's Tavern (6156 N Clark St, Chicago) on Thursday May 21st, 8:30-10:30pm. Free show, suggested donation of $10.

Cutler's last album, *Tarwater,* wove the characters of Flannery O'Connor's fiction (and his own life growing up Pentecostal) into "one magnificent tapestry of roots music" (*No Depression)* that "follows in the trail led by equally O'Connor-obsessed artists like Bruce Springsteen and Lucinda Williams" with "...juke joint energy coursing through it and a humidity that seems to sweat out the sins and the booze that these characters are often soaked in" (*Paste*).

Friday, May 22, 2026
4:00-5:20 pm
(Salon 12)
A Reading of *Claude McKay's Letters in Exile: Transnational Journeys of a Harlem Renaissance Writer*, eds. Brooks E. Hefner and Gary Edward Holcomb (Yale University Press, 2025)
Organized by the Claude McKay Society

Eight American literary studies scholars will be reading short selections from Claude McKay's *Letters in Exile: Transnational Journeys of a Harlem Renaissance Writer*, edited by Brooks E. Hefner and Gary Holcomb and published by Yale University Press in 2025. *Letters in Exile* brings together two decades of McKay's never-before-published dispatches from the road with correspondents including Louise Bryant, W. E. B. Du Bois, Max Eastman, Langston Hughes, and Alain Locke. McKay discusses harassment in London while writing for Pankhurst's *Workers' Dreadnought*, meeting Leon Trotsky in Bolshevik Moscow, his marginalized disposition in Paris's Lost Generation and his life with the Marseille dockers' noir subculture, and his observations of French colonialism in Morocco. Providing a new perspective on a unique figure of the Harlem Renaissance, this collection reveals both a personal side to McKay as well as his spirited debates with the political and artistic questions of the day.

6:00-8:30 pm
(Crystal Room)
African American Literature and Culture Society Reception
Reading and Awards Ceremony

Co-sponsored by: the Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society, Charles Chesnutt Society, and the Toni Morrison Society

6:00-7:00 pm – Reception
7:00-8:30 pm – Reading and Award Ceremony

Kenneth Warren will receive the Darwin T. Turner Award, which celebrates excellence in scholarship in African American culture and literature.

Dana Williams will receive the Octavia E. Butler Award in memory of Consuela Francis, which recognizes outstanding contributions to African American literary scholarship made by a woman of color.

Julie Iromuanya will receive the Stephen Henderson Award which recognizes authors for outstanding achievement in literature and poetry.

Saturday, May 23, 2026

2:30-3:50 pm
(Logan)
***Racial Beings: Experiments in Asian American New Materialisms* –**
A Book Talk with Michelle Nancy Huang
Organized by the Circle for Asian American Literary Studies

4:00-5:20 pm
(Salon 2)
***Elizabeth Bishop: From Brazil with love* –**
A screening of Vivian Ostrovsky's New Documentary Film

Organized by the Elizabeth Bishop Society

Elizabeth Bishop: from Brazil with love explores the transformative period when American poet Elizabeth Bishop lived in Brazil (1950s-70s). Highlighting her deep relationship with Brazilian architect Lota de Macedo Soares, the film weaves together letters, poems and archival footage to reveal Brazil's profound influence on Bishop's personal and artistic journey.

6:00 pm–7:15 pm
(Crystal Room)
Closing Reception

All conference attendees are invited to the closing reception.

Schedule of Sessions:

Thursday, May 21, 2026
Registration: 8:00 am - 5:30 pm
Book exhibit: 10:00 am- 5:00 pm

Thursday, May 21, 2026
8:30 – 9:50 am

Session 1-A Teaching Baldwin/Baldwin as Teacher, Panel 1 (Indiana)
Organized by *James Baldwin Review* and the African American Literature and Culture Society

Chair: Prentiss Clark, University of South Dakota

1. "On Love and Identity: Teaching *Giovanni's Room*," Nicole Dufoe, University of Toronto
2. "James Baldwin's Scenes of Instruction: *Giovanni's Room* with Stanley Cavell," Amie Doan, University of Sydney

Session 1-B Crafting the Future: Design, Affect, and the Eugenic Feminist Imaginary (Kimball)
Organized by the Charlotte Perkins Gilman Society

Co-Chairs: Audra Shumpert-Ebarb and Savannah Mathews, Troy University

1. "Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Dress Reform and Dressmaking," Lisa Bognenko, Université Paris Cité, Sorbonne Université, and University of Chicago (visiting)
2. "With Steady Hands: Gilman and Bittencourt's (Un)sentimental Feminist Eugenics," Roni Lakin, Rutgers University
3. "Constructions of Race and Reproduction in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *Herland* and *The Forerunner*," Katie Livingston, Stanford University

Session 1-C Thoreau and Abolition (Logan)
Organized by the Thoreau Society

Chair: Kassie Baron, University of Tennessee–Martin

1. "Thoreau's North Star," Jamie Bolker, Scholar-in-Residence, Newberry Library
2. ""Implications of Thoreau's Theory of Value; or, a Critique of Antebellum Political Economy," Alec Israeli, University of Chicago
3. "Thoreau's Abolitionist Beyond," Sara Monahan, Marywood University

Session 1-D Shirley Jackson in an Age of Anxiety (Salon 1)
Organized by the Shirley Jackson Society

Chair: Emily Banks, Franklin College

1. "'A maze leading circuitously back to reality': Escapist Fiction and Shirley Jackson's *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*," Kelsey Squire, Ohio Dominican University
2. "But This is My Own Maze": Disorientation and Postwar Anxieties in Shirley Jackson's *The Sundial*," Elizabeth Dinneny, University of Southern California
3. "Extraordinary Terror in Common Places: The Uncanny in Shirley Jackson," Johanna M. Wagner, Østfold University College

Session 1-E The Novel: Formal and Ethical Considerations (Salon 2)

Chair: Steve Frye, California State University, Bakersfield

1. "The Künstlerroman in Contemporary American Literature," Noah Terrell, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2. "Playacting as Self-Creation in the American Social Novel," Sofiane Estrade, University of Connecticut
3. "The Novel as an Ongoing Form," Dan White, University of Illinois-Chicago
4. "Spectacular Violence, Speculative Truth: JFK, Conspiracy Culture, and Birth of the True Crime Novel," Pinar Tasdemir, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Session 1-F Religion in Life Writing and Lyrics (Salon 7)
Organized by the American Religion and Literature Society

Chair: Hannah Wakefield, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga

1. "How Much Charisma Is Too Much? Faculty Rock Stars and Teaching Students for Life," Ashley Barnes, The University of Texas, Dallas
2. "Holy Hunger in God's Mercy: Elizabeth Hanson's Captivity Narrative," Hannah Lancaster, Murray State University
3. "Exposure without Redemption: Nancy, Butler, and Vulnerable Narration in *The Eye of the Wild*," Myung-Joo Kim, Chungnam National University
4. "Beneath a Diamond Sky: Bob Dylan, 'Mr. Tambourine Man,' and Ideas of Eternity in Modern America," Kareem Tayyar, Golden West College

Session 1-G The Harlem Renaissance: Songs and Letters (Salon 12)

Chair: Sabrina Evans-Rangel, Howard University

1. "Uplift and Lowdown: Cautionary Characters and Singing Shadiness in Claude McKay's "Harlem Shadows" and "The Harlem Dancer," and Cab Calloway's "Minnie the Moocher," Heather Augustyn, Western Michigan University
2. "Intersecting Call-and-Response in Black Oral and Literary Cultures: Thomas W. Talley, the Harlem Renaissance Pioneer Who Remains Forgotten," Patrick S. Bernard, Franklin & Marshall College
3. "*Sinners* (2025): a Love Letter to the Harlem Renaissance and the Future," Beck Lambert, University of Wyoming

Session 1-K The Prefatory Voice of Toni Morrison (Salon 5)
Organized by the Toni Morrison Society

Chair: Emmanuelle Andres, La Rochelle Université, France

1. "Slogging Through" *Huckleberry Finn* and Re-Writing *Othello*: Toni Morrison and 'the Classics," Alex Gjaja, Brown University
2. "'My telling can't hurt you': Morrison's Animate Textuality," Devon Clifton, University of Nevada, Last Vegas
3. "'White message, "Abiding" Black Envelope: *Playing in the Dark* as Preface to the American Literary Project," Kristen Maye, Mount Holyoke College.
4. "Toni Morrison as Film Curator," Hayley O'Malley, Rice University.

Session 1-L Research Society for American Periodicals 2026/25 Article Prize (Salon 6)
Organized by the Research Society for American Periodicals

Chair: James Heberton Berkey, Penn State Brandywine

1. "Lillian Smith's *Strange Fruit* and Periodical Readerships", Siân Round, Swansea University

3. “Sacredly Confidential’: Medical Advice Columns, Consumerism, and Literary Imagination in Turn-of-the-Century Women's Magazine Culture“, Yoonsuh Kim, Hanyang University

Session 1-M Dystopia in Contemporary Women’s Fiction (Salon 8)

Chair: Wendy Martin, Claremont Graduate University

1. “When Dystopia is No Longer Dystopian: Coercive Reproduction in Recent Women’s Fiction,” Sally Robinson, Texas A&M University
2. “The Politics of Nostalgia in Ling Ma’s *Severance*,” Tierney Powell, Grand Valley State University
3. “Women in Three Dystopian Novels by Chinese American Writers,” Xiaoping Yen, LaGuardia Community College CUNY

Thursday, May 21, 2026
10:00-11:20 am

Session 2-A Teaching Baldwin/Baldwin as Teacher, Panel 2 (Indiana)
Organized by *James Baldwin Review* and the African American Literature and Culture Society

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

1. "The Baldwin Prize: Inspiring Intergenerational Learning at a Baltimore City High School,” Lionel Foster, The Baldwin Prize
2. “The Black Boy Looks at the White Boy, Again: Using Baldwin to Teach Warren Beatty’s 1998 Political Satire *Bulworth*,” Charles Nero, Bates College
3. “James Baldwin: Exile, Aesthetics, and the Practice of Freedom,” Christine Montgomery, California State University, Sacramento

Session 2-B Cormac McCarthy I (Kimball)
Organized by the Cormac McCarthy Society

Chair: Steven Frye, California State University, Bakersfield

1. “Animalcule in a Water Drop: McCarthy’s Metaphor for Desert Vision,” Dianne C. Luce, Midlands Technical College, Emerita
2. “Doomed Enterprises: Brotherhood in Cormac McCarthy’s Fiction,” Rick Elmore, Appalachian State University, Jonathan Elmore, Louisiana Tech University
3. “Reading as a Budding Writer: Cormac McCarthy in College,” Stacey Peebles, Centre College

Session 2-C Revisionary Approaches to “Postmodern”-era US Novelists (Logan)
Organizer: Ali Chetwynd, American University in Bulgaria

Chair: Mark Osteen, Loyola University Maryland

1. "Gegaa Criticism: Some Words about Gerald Vizenor's *Hotline Healers*," Crystal Alberts, University of North Dakota
2. "I am Me as You are He: Thomas Pynchon the Memoirist," Graham Glovka, Brandeis University
3. "EL Doctorow's *The Waterworks*: A Gothic of Privatised Science," Ali Chetwynd, American University in Bulgaria
4. "Problems with Postmodern Memoir: Considering Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior* as a Source of Biographical Information," John Whalen-Bridge, National University of Singapore

Session 2-D: SSAWW at 25: Understanding Histories (Salon 1)
Organized by the Society for the Study of American Women Writers

Chair: Kristin J. Jacobson, Stockton University

1. "Writing Urban Overcrowding: Ann Petry's *The Street*," Jolene Hubbs, The University of Alabama
2. "Reinterpreting Biblical History in Gloria Naylor's Novels," Michelle Loris, Sacred Heart University
3. "'The past is past, but I would always look back': *The Invention of Wings* as a Counternarrative," Melanie Werner, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
4. "Gender, Genre, and Gynecology in Joyce Carol Oates' *Butcher: A Novel*," Beth Widmaier Capo, Illinois College

Session 2-E Ralph Waldo Emerson Engaging the Transcendental (Salon 2)
Organized by the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society

Chair: Nicholas Guardiano, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

1. "The "Transparent Eyeball" as a Democratic Instantiation of Platonic Illumination" Gary Ricketts, Independent Scholar
2. "Emerson, Buddhism, and Daisaku Ikeda: Dialogues of the Heart," Anita Patterson, Boston University
3. "The Rev. J. W. Loguen as a Transcendentalist Slave Narrative," Aïcha Bouchelaghem, University of Geneva (Switzerland)

Session 2-F Religion in Contemporary American Fiction (Salon 7)
Organized by the American Religion and Literature Society

Chair: Ray Horton, Murray State University

1. "Literature and the Taste of Belief in Nabokov's American Years," Erik Eklund, Northwestern University
2. "Late Thomas Pynchon: Detective Fiction and the Inner Life," Luke Ferretter, Baylor University
3. "The New Sacramentalists: Plot and Theology in Recent American Fiction," William Gonch, Ave Maria University

4. “Romans 8:28 and the Integration of ‘Love’ and ‘Order’ in Evangelical Popular Culture,” Ken Paradis, Wilfrid Laurier University

Session 2-G The Surreal in American Literature: Vampires, Talking Hogs, and Cosmic Horror (Salon 12)

Chair Kirk Curnutt, Troy University

1. “Randall Kenan's Hogs: Sexuality, Sin, and the Supernatural,” Deborah Wilson, Arkansas Tech University
2. “Eldritch Reclamation: Cosmic Horror as Disidentification Strategy,” Joshua Horton, Arizona State University

Session 2-I The Ethics of Race, Gender, and Embodiment in Flannery O'Connor's Fiction (Madison)
Organized by the Flannery O’Connor Society

Chair: Kathleen Lipovski-Halal, University of Texas at Austin

1. “Light Leaves Water: Flannery O’Connor’s Racism Through the Grotesque,” Justice Yoo, University of California, Berkeley
2. “The Space Between ‘Principle’ and ‘Taste:’ Mapping Race and Racism in Flannery O’Connor Scholarship,” Matt Bryant Cheney, Georgia College and State University
3. “O’Connor: Turning Disability Agency on its Head,” Laura Jones, Bossier Parish Community College, Laura Jones, Bossier Parish Community College
4. "Talking about *Tarwater,*" Colin Cutler, Guilford Technical Community College

Session 2-J The Lasting of the Mohicans: The Leather-Stocking Novels and Legacy, A Bicentennial Celebration (Marshfield)
Organized by the James Fenimore Cooper Society

Chair: Luis A. Iglesias, University of Southern Mississippi

1. “*The Last of the Mohicans*: An Underground Plea for Including Native Americans in a Liberal Democracy,” Christopher Allan Black, The University of Memphis
2. “A Bloody Back and a Bloody Pond: Memory in *Last of the Mohicans*,” Steven P. Harthorn, Concordia University Chicago
3. “‘Former Days to Mind’: *The Prairie* as a reworking of *The Last of the Mohicans*,” Jennie J. Joiner, Keuka College

Session 2-K The Harlem Renaissance and/in Periodicals (Salon 5)
Organized by the Research Society for American Periodicals

Chair: Adam McKible, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

1. "On Progress and Propaganda through the Periodical: *The Crisis,* Ugly Progress, and Alternate Future Making for the New Negro", Samanda Robinson, Lincoln University
2. "Recollecting Heritage: The Search for Usable Folk Forms in *The Crisis* and *Opportunity* Magazines," Karen Roggenkamp, East Texas A&M
3. "African American Periodical Poetry in the 1920s: A Data-Driven Approach," Amardeep Singh, Lehigh University

Thursday, May 21, 2026
11:30 am-12:50 pm

Session 3-A Frost and Politics Then & Now (Indiana)
Organized by the Robert Frost Society

Chair: Grzegorz Kosc, University of Warsaw

1. "The Life of Muscles Rocking Soft: Poetry and the Body Politic in Robert Frost," Jefferson Holdridge, Wake Forest University
2. "Return to Easter Island: A Re-appraisal of an Overlooked Poem," Virginia F. Smith, United States Naval Academy
3. "When Poetry Became National: Robert Frost and Cold War Arts," Amy Paeth, University of Pennsylvania

Session 3-B Cormac McCarthy II (Kimball)
Organized by the Cormac McCarthy Society

Chair: Stacey Peebles, Centre College

1. "'It could not mend. Not in this world': Miasma in Graniteville and Its Literary Provenance in Cormac McCarthy's *The Gardener's Son,"* Russell M. Hillier, Providence College
2. "Spectres of Infinite Regress: Eidolons in *The Passenger* and *Stella Maris*," Scott Yarbrough, Charleston Southern University
3. "The Library Project and the Making of at Least One Book: The Influence of Jacob Boehme's *Aurora* on Cormac McCarthy's *Blood Meridian,"* Lydia Cooper, Seattle University

Session 3-C Formations of Black Masculinity (Logan)
Organized by the African American Literature and Culture Society

Chair: Justin Smith, Randolph-Macon College

1. "From Race Men to YN's: Literary Rejections of Race Man Tropology Illustrated by Wright's Black Male Protagonists: Bigger Thomas (*Native Son*), Dave ("The Man Who Was Almost a Man"), and Saul ("The Man Who Killed a Shadow")," Jacquetta T. Ayewoh, Lincoln University
2. "'That's What She Wanted': Reading Rape Fantasies of the Other in *If He Hollers, Let Him Go*," Sam Forrey, Loyola University Chicago
3. "Seconds to/from Greatness: Afrofuturist Readings of Heroic Black Boyhood in *Netflix's Arcane: League of Legends*," Alex Brickler, Florida A&M University
4. "Sterling A. Brown, Son of a Preacher Man," John Saillant, Western Michigan University

Session 3-D American Gothic and Revolution: A Roundtable (Salon 1)
Organized by the Society for the Study of the American Gothic

Chair: Matthew Sivils, Iowa State University

1. "Protestant Work Ethic and the Gothic Dilemma, or Effete Men in Capitalist Gothic," Monika Elbert, Montclair State University
2. "Political Terror as Gothic Tale in Nineteenth-Century America," Daniella Cádiz Bedini, University of California, Berkeley
3. "The Neurologic Revolution and Reading the American Gothic," Josh Doty, St. Mary's University, San Antonio
4. "Campus Revolutions: University Gothic and Institutional Resistance in American Fiction," McKenzie Bergan, University of Connecticut
6. "The AI Revolution and the American Gothic," Megan Spring, Florida Atlantic University

Session 3-E Innovations in Post-War Poetry (Salon 2)

Chair: Craig Svonkin, Metropolitan State University of Denver

1. "Sublimity and Scale: The Blues Humanities of Rachel Carson and Elizabeth Bishop," James McCorkle, Hobart and William Smith Colleges
2. "Promiscuous Bodies: Jack Spicer, Federico García Lorca, and the Problems of Origin," Eli Didier, University at Buffalo, SUNY

Session 3-F Ecological Justice in American Literature (Salon 7)

Chair: Rene H. Treviño, California State University, Long Beach

1. "Ecological Violence and Gender Oppression in Eric Barnes's *Above the Ether* (2019): An Ecofeminist Analysis," Amira Mokhbat, University of Paris-Saclay, Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines
2. "The Eco-Societies of Kim Stanley Robinson," William Scarborough, University of Akron

Session 3-G Redefining Domesticity and Mothering (Salon 12)

Chair: DeAnna Daniels, University of Arizona

1. "The Collective Resistance of Women and an Expansive Understanding of the Feminine in Toni Morrison's *Home*," Francine L. Allen-Adams, Morehouse College
2. "'Is the whole Bible a poem?': Mother-Daughter Conflicts and Resistant Reading Strategies in Elizabeth Acevedo's *The Poet X*," Daniel Morris, Purdue University

Session 3-I New Perspectives on Flannery O'Connor's Short Stories (Madison)
Organized by the Flannery O'Connor Society

Chair: Matt Bryant Cheney, Georgia College and State University

1. "Hostile Hospitality: Fatal Presumptions in Katherine Anne Porter's 'Noon Wine' and 'The Displaced Person,'" Sophia Giudici, Catholic University of America
2. "'Before you could realize that it was real and take it into your head:' Flannery O'Connor, Mass Media, and Postwar Violence," Benjamin Batzer, Truman State University
3 . "The Mystery of Origin: 'The Displaced Person' in the Archives," Kathleen Lipovski-Helal, University of Texas at Austin
4. "The Looks of God, The Mask of Christ: Sight and Religion in Flannery O'Connor and Luigi Pirandello," Alessandro Matone, University of Notre Dame

Session 3-J The View from Outside: James Fenimore Cooper Writings and an Extranational Perspective (Marshfield)
Organized by the James Fenimore Cooper Society

Chair: Steven Harthorn, Concordia University Chicago

1. "Imagining 'Our America': James Fenimore Cooper's novels and a Hemispheric Dialogue," Luis A Iglesias, University of Southern Mississippi
2, "Cooper-Land and Scott-Land in John S. Sauzade's *Garret Van Horn* (1863)," Shawn Thomson, The University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley.
3. "Pursuing Truth and Justice through Cooper's Republican Conversation: *The Bravo* and American Republicanism," Xiaohan Wang, University of Notre Dame.

Session 3-K Midwestern Writing and the Relevance of Literary Places (Salon 5)

Organizer and Chair: Andy Oler, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

1. Kassie Baron, University of Tennessee–Martin
2. Lisa DuRose, Inver Hills Community College
3. Jenna Goldsmith, Oregon State University–Cascades
4. Jesse Raber, independent scholar
5. Doug Sheldon, University of Illinois–Chicago
6. Ross K. Tangedal, University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point

Session 3-L Anti-Capitalism in American Literature (Salon 6)

Chair: Jack Kerkering, Loyola University Chicago

1. "Capitalist Violence in 19th – century American Hunting Narrative," Jeeah Ham, University of Texas at Dallas
2. "Black Sanctification and Capitalist Desecration in the Work of August Wilson, Charles Long, and W.E.B. DuBois," Ryan Poll, Northern Illinois University
3. "The Value of a Story: Wendell Berry's Elegy for Rural Life in *Marce Catlett: The Force of a Story*," Emily Cook, Holy Cross College

Session 3-M Rethinking Roberts for the 21st Century: A Roundtable Discussion (Salon 8)
Organized by the Elizabeth Madox Roberts Society

Chair: Amanda Capelli, New York University

1. Emily Banks, Franklin College
2. Evan Hulick, Georgia Southern University
3. James Stamant, Agnes Scott College
4. Daniel Pizappi, Independent Scholar

Thursday, May 21, 2026
1:00-2:20 pm

Session 4-A American Haiku: Gender, Language, and Race (Indiana)
Organized by the Haiku Society of America

Chair: Charlotte Digregorio, Independent Scholar

1. "Styles of Beat Homoeroticism in Haibun of Jerry McBride," Judson Evans, Berklee School of Music
2. "as if in bloom: Women *Haijin* and Haiku as American Literature," Jennifer Hambrick, Independent Scholar, WOSU Public Media at Ohio State University
3. "Approximations: Expressions of History & the Natural World by Black Haiku Poets," Crystal Simone Smith, Duke University

Session 4-B Poetic Migrations: Chicago (Kimball)
Organized by The Society for the Study of American Poetry

Chair: Herman Beavers, University of Pennsylvania

1. “The Remix: Hip Hop, House Music, and Black Poetics,” DaMaris B. Hill, Morgan State University
2. “The Futures of Emmett Till,” Keith D. Leonard, American University
3. “Retelling The (Great) Migration through Contemporary Chicago Poetry, Art & Animation,” Meta DuEwa Jones, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Session 4-C Minor Threads in the Work of Henry James (Logan)
Organized by the Henry James Society

Chair: Sarah Wadsworth, Marquette University

1. “‘Connected, connected intimately’: *Roderick Hudson*, Cousin Cecilia, and the Right to Oblivion,” Dan Abitz, Emory University
2. “Minor Satisfactions in *The Portrait of a Lady*,” Damian Maher, University of Oxford, UK
3. “Minor Threads –The Language of the *Ficelle* in James’s *What Maisie Knew* and Ibsen’s *John Gabriel Borkman*,” Sarah Chambré, University College London, UK

Session 4-D Melville & Justice (Salon 1)
Organized by The Melville Society

Chair: Adam Fales, University of Chicago

1. "Avian Shame and Interspecies justice in Melville’s *Billy Budd* and Eggers’ *The Lighthouse*," Thomas Bryant, Penn State University
2. "The Chewed Sermon of Ruthless Democracy: Dialect, Naturalism and Ontology in 'Stubb’s Supper,'" Daniel Fulton Cheung, Loyola University Chicago
3. "'Dye hee or Justice must': *Billy Budd*, *Paradise Lost*, Queer Subjects, and Patriarchal Law," David Greven, University of South Carolina
4. "The Metafictions of Indian Hating," Edward Watts, Michigan State University

Session 4-E SSAWW at 25: Understanding Histories, Imagining Women Writers’ Futures: Roundtable (Salon 2)
Organized by the Society for the Study of American Women Writers

Chair: Jolene Hubbs, The University of Alabama

1. “*Color Struck*: Revisiting the Renaissance Through Zora's Eyes,” Allison S. Curseen, Boston College
2. “‘I Will Teach It For You’: A Mutual Aid Teaching Exchange,” Eagan Dean and Jana Argersinger, Margaret Fuller Society
3. “The Abolitionist Transfeminist Politics of the Trans Women Writers Collective Booklet Series (2018-2020),” LaVelle Ridley, The Ohio State University
4. “The Poetry of Edith M. Thomas and the Mentorship of Anne C. L. Botta in her Literary Salon,” Mary Conaway, Western Washington University
5. “Going Viral: A History of Women’s Reading Communities from Margaret Fuller to BookTok,” Monique A. McDade, Oregon State University

Session 4-F Masculinities in American Literature (Salon 7)

Chair: Tom Hertweck, Fordham University

1. "Southern Boyhood in Post-Bellum Literature," Afrin Zeenat, Dallas College
2. "Moral Injury, Perpetrator Trauma, and Reader Judgment in *In the Lake of the Woods*," Brian Williams, Tennessee Tech University
3. "Disrupted Frames of War: Plural Narration and Fractured Brotherhood in David Abrams' *Brave Deeds*," Thomas Ærvold Bjerre, University of Southern Denmark
4. "'So It Goes' Again: Mother Night and the Problem of Howard W. Campbell," Richard Coronado, South Texas College

Session 4-G Reenvisioning the American Body Politic: Toni Morrison's Fiction I (Salon 6)
Organized by the Toni Morrison Society

Chair: Carolyn Denard, Toni Morrison Society

1. "Fictions of Protection and Technologies of Perception: *Paradise*'s Late-Twentieth-Century Abortion," Mattie Hemming, Rice University.
2. "Nature in Toni Morrison's *Home*: Black Horses, Gardens,and a Bay Tree," Paola Nardi, University of Genoa, Italy
3. "What Literature Knows about Care in the Wake of Violence: Reading Toni Morrison's *Home* for Medical Humanities Futures," Dana Williams, Howard University.

Session 4-I August Wilson's Life after Death (Madison)
Organized by the August Wilson Society

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

1. "Teaching Identity Studies through Literal and Metaphorical Fences to High School Students through August Wilson's *Fences*," Patrice Stank, Kent State University
2. "Seeing and Being: Ghosts in August Wilson's Century Cycle," Jon Dietrick, Babson College
3. "'From Hell to Hallelujah' : Critical Responses to the Broadway Revivals of August Wilson," J. Ken Stuckey, Bentley University

Session 4-K Modernism and the Novel (Salon 5)

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

1. "The Ideology of Immediacy: Hemingway's *In Our Time* as a Return to Dialectical Thought," Lisa Narbeshuber and Lance La Rocque, Acadia University

2. “Reading Ecologies in *This Side of Paradise* and *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*: the Development of the U. S. American Novel in 1920s Popular Literature,” Desire Ameigh, Auburn University
3. “The Tipping Iceberg in *A Farewell to Arms*,” Callum Rolinson, Georgia Southern University

Thursday, May 21, 2026
2:30-3:50 pm

Session 5-A Bodies on the Line: A Roundtable (Indiana)
Organized by the Civil War Caucus

Chair: Kathleen Diffley, University of Iowa

1. “‘The Glorious Uncertainty of the Law’: Legitimating Lynching in the 1835 Madison County Insurrection Scare,” John Cyril Barton, University of Missouri, Kansas City
2. “Bodies of Christ: Henry Ward Beecher, the Antislavery Impulse, and Whitman’s Poetic Embodiments,” Samuel Graber, Valparaiso University
3. “Bureaucracy and the Body: The Civil War and the Building of the Invalid Corps,” Marla Anzalone, Duquesne University
4. “The Left Arm of the Law: Murder and the Empty Sleeve,” Allison M. Johnson, San José State University

Session 5-B Mediating American Poetry (Kimball)
Organized by The Society for the Study of American Poetry

Chair: Nikki Skillman, Indiana University

1. "George Moses Horton's ‘Amanuenses’ and Handwriting's Misdirections,” Eliza Richards, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
2. "Stitch and Pigment: The Dream of Transmutation in (and out of) Dickinson's Poetry," Jonathan Elmer, Indiana University
3. "Loose Meaning: Learning from John Ashbery’s Scraps," Michael Mason, DePaul University
Audio-Visual Required

Session 5-C Black Cinema and Theater (Logan)
Organized by the African American Literature and Culture Society

Chair: Akash Belsare, University of Illinois Springfield

1. “Zora Neale Hurston’s *Color Struck*: A Hundred Years Later,” Allison S. Curseen, Boston College
2. “Musical Theatricality and Identity Formation in Tyehimba Jess’ *Olio*," Tiff Polzin, Independent Scholar
3. “Defying Erasure in *The Watermelon Woman*,” Jason Potel, Goldsmiths, University of London

Session 5-D Bonnie Jo Campbell and the American Midwest (Salon 1)
Organized by the Bonnie Jo Campbell Society

Chair: Lisa DuRose, Inver Hills Community College

1. "Gender Out of Balance in the Fiction of Bonnie Jo Campbell," Charles Cunningham, Eastern Michigan University
2. "Bonnie Jo Campbell Comics Volume 5: 13 Ways of Looking at *The Waters*," Monica Friedman, Independent Scholar
3. "Nowhere Places and Invisible People: Surfacing Stories of the Overlooked," Dawn Burns, Michigan State University

Session 5-E SSAWW at 25: Imagining Futures (Salon 2)
Organized by the Society for the Study of American Women Writers

Chair: Beth Widmaier Capo, Illinois College

1. "No Arrival, No Re-collection: Dissociation and the Disavowed 'I' in Wheatley's Verse," Cassandra Gemmell, York University
2. "A Good Story, of *Black Futures*: Octavia E. Butler and the Diversification of Science Fiction," Cathryn Piwinski, Rutgers University
3. "The Past as Prolepsis: Octavia Butler's Revisions of History and Their Pedagogical Implications," Omotoyosi Odukomaiya, Hope College
4. "Reimagining Nation: New Regionalisms in Contemporary Cli-Fi by American Women Writers," Kristin J. Jacobson, Stockton University

Session 5-F Reassessments, Secrets, and Revelations (Salon 7)

Chair: Maegan Bishop, Georgia Southern University

1. "In Dubious Battle: Sanora Babb, Iris Jamahl Dunkle, and John Steinbeck," Jon Dawson, University of North Georgia
2. "Revealing the Secrets of Rawson's Magical Mysteries," Neil Tobin, Independent Scholar
3. "Going with the Grain, Going against the Grain: Reassessing Farmer/Author Byron Herbert Reece," Ted Olson, East Tennessee State University
4. "Impossible to Marry: The Secret Story Behind Harper Lee's Silence - Marking the Centennial of her Birth," Denis Zakharov, Independent Scholar

Session 5-G Roundtable on the Anti-hero in American Literary Naturalism and Beyond (Wabash)
Organized by the Society for the Study of American Literary Naturalism

Chair: Adam H. Wood, Georgia College and State University

1. Susan Padveen, Columbia College Chicago

2. Jeanne Petrolle, Columbia College Chicago
3. Eric Carl Link, University of North Dakota
4. Ilya Levinson, Columbia College Chicago

Session 5-I Looking Back on Updike's Late Fiction (Madison)
Organized by the John Updike Society

Chair : Marshall Boswell, Rhodes College

1. "Priest, Mailman, a Movie Star— Autobiography in *In the Beauty of the Lilies* (1996)," Biljana Dojčinović, University of Belgrade, Serbia
2. "Gender, Cosmopolitanism, and Textuality in Updike's Version of the Legend of Hamlet in *Gertrude and Claudius* (2000)," Takashi Nakatani, Yokohama City University, Japan
3. "*Terrorist* (2006), Updike's Final Best Seller," Jim Schiff, University of Cincinnati
4. "'Imperilled Fruit': Parenting and Abdication in 'Blue Light' (*My Father's Tears*, 2009)," Peter Bailey, St. Lawrence University

Session 5-J Innovative Strategies for Teaching and Researching Washington Irving (Marshfield)
Organized by the Washington Irving Society

Chair: Luke Ferretter, Baylor University

1. "Adaptation and Affect: Washington Irving as Meaning-Maker and Muse in Student-Centered Literature Unit," Cheryl Weaver, Independent Scholar
2. "Irving in the Classroom," Joy Smith, Bossier Parish Community College
3. "Podcasting Pedagogy: Podcast Assignments in a Single Author Course," Tracy Hoffman, Baylor University

Session 5-L Reenvisioning the American Body Politic: Toni Morrison's Fiction II (Salon 6)
Organized by the Toni Morrison Society

Chair: Carolyn Denard, Toni Morrison Society

1. "A "Cold" yet "Green" House: Black Girlhood Reading as Remedy in *The Bluest Eye,*" Hayon Cho, Northwestern University
2. "Excavating Traces of an Africanist Culture: Alternative Healing and Women's Trauma in *The Bluest Eye* and *Song of Solomon*" Martha J. Cutter, University of Connecticut

Thursday, May 21, 2026
4:00-5:20 pm

Session 6-A Writing War and Its Aftermath (Indiana)
Organized by the Civil War Caucus

Chair: Allison M. Johnson, San José State University

1. "Walt Whitman as Civil War Letter Writer and Amanuensis," Ken Price, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
2. "John W. De Forest and the Evolving Meaning of Corruption," Andrew Donnelly, University of Memphis
4. "Post-Apocalyptic Ethnology and the Legacy of Civil War Journalism in Robert Duncan Milne's 'How San Francisco Looked in 1893,'" Leah Olson, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Session 6-B New Approaches to Eudora Welty's *The Golden Apples* (Kimball)
Organized by the Eudora Welty Society

Chair: Harriet Pollack, College of Charleston

1. "Plant Ecology in Eudora Welty's *The Golden Apples*," Andrew Leiter, Lycoming College
2. "'Far away in her heart': Snowdie MacLain's Interiors in *The Golden Apples,*" Grace McCright, Baylor University
3. "Our Town, Our Morgana: Setting the Stage for *The Golden Apples,*" Melissa Fox, Independent Scholar
4. "Lace Collars and Loaded Cluster-Pearl Pins: Albinism, Disability, and the Call of (M)Other in *The Golden Apples*," Rebecca L. Harrison, University of West Georgia

Session 6-C Contemporary Storytelling: Resisting Classification in Indigenous Visual Narratives (Logan)
Organized by the Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures (ASAIL)

Chair: Wendy Martin, Claremont Graduate University

1. "Curated Not Cute: The Pop Art of Steven Paul Judd," Becca Gercken, University of Minnesota Morris
2. "Decolonizing First-Year Composition: Teaching Indigenous Horror," Preston Taylor Stone, Brandeis University
3. "Engaged Resistance in Contemporary Indigenous Television," Brian J Twenter, University of Central Oklahoma

Session 6-D Emily Dickinson in an Age of Revolution 1 (Salon 1)
Organized by The Emily Dickinson International Society (EDIS)

Chair: Emily Seelbinder, Queens University of Charlotte

1. "And God for a Frontier: Dickinson's Microscopic Poetics of Extravagant Hesitation," Marsaura Skukla, St. John's College
2. "Revolutionary Hope in Poems by Emily Dickinson and Charlotte Smith," Mary Anne Myers, Independent Scholar
3. "Death, Silence, and Female Authorship: A Comparative Reading of Emily Dickinson and Francisca Júlia da Silva," Gustavo Ribeiro Lourenço, Mato Grosso do Sul State University

Session 6-E Beyond the Centennial Celebrations: What's Next for *Gatsby* and F. Scott Fitzgerald Studies (Salon 2)
Organized by the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society

Chair: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University

1. "Erasing the Obscene Word: Determinism, Sexual Selection, and Social Darwinism in Fitzgerald's 'Presumption;'" Dominic Robin, Bioethics Research Center, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine
2. "Repetition and Meaning in *Tender Is the Night,"* Pascale Antolin, Bordeaux Montaigne University

Session 6-F Pedagogy in the Twenty-First Century (Salon 7)

Chair: Jacqueline Foertsch, University of North Texas

1. "Bartleby's Yellow Wallpaper: Open Conversations about Mental Health through Literature," Audra Shumpert-Ebarb and Savannah Mathews, Troy University
2. "Cooper Pedagogy and Ethics," Conor McGuire, Hofstra University

Session 6-G *An American Tragedy*: A New Musical based on Theodore Dreiser's Novel (Wabash)
Organized by the Society for the Study of American Literary Naturalism

Session 6-I Bonnie Jo Campbell's Influence: A Roundtable Discussion (Madison)
Organized by the Bonnie Jo Campbell Society

Chair: Sara Kosiba, Northeast Ohio Medical University

1. Lisa DuRose, Inver Hills Community College
2. Caitlin Horrocks, Grand Valley State University
3. Doug Sheldon, University of Illinois Chicago

Session 6-O Fragments, Fables, Fantasies, and Other Experiments in Fictional Form (Salon 10)

Chair: Sarah E. Chinn, Hunter College, CUNY

1. "Hawthorne's Fragments: A New Edition," Robert Levine, University of Maryland
2. "Feminist Fables: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Edith Wharton, Alice Brown, Laura E. Richards," Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University

Respondent: John Stauffer, Harvard University

Session 6-P Building of the ALA-GSO (4th Floor: Red Lacquer)
Organized by the American Literature Association-Graduate Student Organization

Chair: Melanie Werner, University of Tennessee

1. "The Functioning Graduate Student," Maegan Bishop, Georgia Southern University
2. "The Functioning Graduate Student Organization," Mary T. Moore, Ohio University
3. "The Functioning Graduate Student Community,' April Trepagnier, University of Tennessee
4. "Accepting Dysfunction," Tanner Crunelle, Cornell University

Thursday, May 21, 2026
5:30-6:15 pm

Session 7-A Business Meeting: Robert Frost Society (Indiana)

Session 7-B Business Meeting: Charlotte Perkins Gilman Society (Kimball)

Session 7-C Business Meeting: H. D. International Society (Logan)

Session 7-D Business Meeting: Bonnie Jo Campbell Society (Salon 1)

Session 7-E Business Meeting: John Updike Society (Salon 2)

Session 7-F Business Meeting: Ralph Waldo Emerson Society (Salon 7)

Session 7-G Business Meeting: Flannery O'Connor Society (Salon 12)

Session 7-H Business Meeting: James Fenimore Cooper (Salon 4)

Session 7-I Business Meeting: American Religion and Literature Society (Madison)

Session 7-J Business Meeting: Shirley Jackson Society (Marshfield)

Session 7-K Business Meeting: Washington Irving Society (Salon 5)

Session 7-L Business Meeting: Research Society for American Periodicals (Salon 6)

Session 7-M Business Meeting: Elizabeth Madox Roberts Society (Salon 8

5:30–6:15 pm
(4th Floor: Red Lacquer)
Graduate Student Reception/Mixer

The Executive Board of the American Literature Association wishes to welcome all graduate students to a reception for an engaging time of fellowship. We invite you to share a drink and light hors d'oeuvres, to relax, and to get to know others in your field.

6:15-7:45 pm
(4th Floor: Red Lacquer)
Opening Reception and Reading by ZZ Packer

Reception: 6:15-7:00 pm
Reading: 7:00-7:45 pm

All conference attendees are invited to the opening reception, where we will begin with drinks and light hors d'oeuvres before settling in for the key event, a reading by ZZ Packer.

ZZ Packer is a multiple award-winning writer of fiction, who is probably best known for her dazzling collection of stories, *Drinking Coffee Elsewhere,* a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2004, which also won the Commonwealth First Fiction Award, an ALEX Award, and was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award. Her stories have appeared in *The New Yorker, Harper's, Story, Ploughshares, GRANTA, Zoetrope All-Story, Best American Short Stories 2000, Best American Short Stories 2003* and *100 Years of The Best American Short Stories*. Her non-fiction has appeared in the *New York Times Magazine, The Washington Post Magazine, The Believer, The American Prospect, The Oxford American, The Guardian, The New York Times Book Review, Newsweek Online* and *The New Yorker Online.* She is the recipient of a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award, a Whiting Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and the American Academy of Berlin Prize.

ZZ Packer is editor of *New Short Stories from the South: The Year's Best, 2008***.** She is currently at work on a novel about Reconstruction and the Buffalo Soldiers entitled *The Thousands,* an excerpt from which appeared in *The New Yorker's "*20 Under 40 Fiction Issue" and *The 1619 Project.* She currently teaches in the MFA Program at Vanderbilt University.

Friday, May 22, 2026
Registration: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Book Exhibits: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Friday, May 22, 2026
8:30-9:50 am

Session 8-A Abolition's Echoes: A Roundtable (Indiana)
Organized by the Civil War Caucus

Chair: Kathleen Diffley, University of Iowa

1. "George Moses Horton's 'Individual Influence' and the 1856 'Black Republican Controversy,'" Jonathan Senchyne, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2. "'We're Not So Far Removed': Finding Locks of Frederick Douglass's Hair," Sarah E. Chinn, Hunter College, CUNY
3. "Harriet Beecher Stowe Day: Tallahassee, Florida, 1874," Robert S. Levine, University of Maryland
4. "Hearing and Belonging: Sonic Citizenship in Early African American Theatre," Thomas Massnick, Clarke University

Session 8-B Minor Characters in Eudora Welty's Fiction (Kimball)
Organized by the Eudora Welty Society

Chair: Michael Pickard, Millsaps College

1. "Willy Trimble? The Joker Figure in *Losing Battles*," Jo Ellyn Clarey, Independent Scholar
2. "Willy Trimble and Lady May, Bachelor and Tomboy, Running the Narrative Off the Road in Eudora Welty's *Losing Battles*," Rebecca Mark, Rutgers University-New Brunswick
3. "At the Crossroads: Eudora Welty's Blues Performance in 'The Demonstrators,'" Donnie McMahand and Kevin Murphy, Towson University
4. "'Nothing as Mundane as Ghosts': The Influence of Ambiguously Dead Figures in Eudora Welty's Short Fiction," Cindy Taylor, University of Texas-Austin

Session 8-C Don't Look Away: The Monstrous, the Gothic, and Survivance in the Worlds of Stephen Graham Jones (Logan)
Organized by the Stephen Graham Jones Society

Chair: Billy J. Stratton, University of Denver

1. "Indigenizing Gothic Space: Animate Landscapes and Survivance in Stephen Graham Jones's Horror Fiction," Valerie L. Guyant, Montana State University - Northern
2. "Still in the circle of the People": Redefining Belonging in *The Buffalo Hunter Hunter*," Florencia Lauria, SUNY Oswego

3. “No Longer Just the Victim: A Comparison Between Female Leads in Stephen Graham Jones' *The Last Final Girl* and *Indian Lake Trilogy*,” Lucy LeVon, University of Denver
4. “The American Vampire,” Johnathon C. Smith, University of Denver

Session 8-D Cormac McCarthy III (Salon 1)
Organized by the Cormac McCarthy Society

Chair: Scott Yarbrough, Charleston Southern University

1. “Centers of Narrative Gravity: Interiority and Selfhood in McCarthy’s Fictions,” Bryan Vescio, High Point University
2. “Critiques of Ocularcentrism and Haptocentrism in the Border Trilogy,” Hiroto Morikani, Hiroshima University, Japan
3. “Monstrous Maternity: Imagining the Womb in *Outer Dark,*” Emma Rektenwald, Texas State University, San Marcos

Session 8-E Black Chicago Writers and Community (Salon 2)
Organized by the African American Literature and Culture Society

Chair: Sabrina Evans-Rangel, Howard University

1. “Marian Minus, the South Side Writers Group, and the University of Chicago,” David Leight, Reading Area Community College
2. “The Art of Leon Forrest’s Teaching: Reflections,” Sika Dagbovie-Mullins, Florida Atlantic University
3. “Untangling the Refrain from the “’Last Quatrain’: Looking for Echoes in Gwendolyn Brooks’ Ballad for Emmett Till,” Marimac Carty, Southern Methodist University

Session 8-F Unique Archives: Digital Projects and Preservation Outside the Canon (Salon 7)
Organized by the Digital Americanists Society

Chair: Crystal Alberts, University of North Dakota

1. “The History of Black Writing (HBW) Novel Corpus: Building an Archive,” Ayesha Hardison, Indiana University, Alp Pirli, Indiana University Bloomington
2. “Leonard Peltier and the Untold Story of The David Givers Papers: Culturally Competent Archivism,” Alex Morin, Turtle Mountain College
3. “Community-Centered Archiving: Co-Creating Digital Collections with Memphis Neighborhoods,” Donal Harris, University of Memphis, Mary Lothrop, University of Memphis
4. “Small Press Distribution Bestseller Lists, 2006-2023,” Sera-Ann Hargrove, University of Iowa

Session 8-G Infrastructures and Affordances of the American Short Story (Salon 12)
Organized by the Society for the Study of the American Short Story

Chair: Jochen Achilles,University of Wuerzburg

1. "Bierce's Ecogothic Incest," Matthew Wynn Sivils, Iowa State University
2. "Persistence of Comics in Short Story Form: Ben Katchor's *Julius Knipl* and *Hand Drying in America*," Maegan Bishop, Georgia Southern University
3. "The Sunken and the Ascending: Black Horror Short Fiction," Whit Frazier Peterson, University of Stuttgart

Respondent: Oliver Scheiding, University of Mainz

Session 8-I *Clovernook* and Beyond: How and Why Alice Cary Still Matters (Madison)
Organized by The Alice Cary Society

Chair: John A. Staunton, Eastern Michigan University

1. "'Having Our Way': Alice Cary's *Children*," Monika Elbert, Montclair State University
2. "Alice Cary's 'Weirdness,'" Mikki Galliher, Blue Mountain Christian University
3. "Taming the Wild Man: Death, Wildness, and Wilderness in Alice Cary's *Clovernook*," Adelyn Olson, Independent Scholar
4. "A Story of Today: *Hagar* and Alice Cary's Impact on Contemporary Women Writers," Leanne Phillips, Independent Scholar
5. "Alice Cary and/or 'Patty Lee': Double-billing in the 1850s Literary Scene," John Staunton, Eastern Michigan University
6. "'…of too somber a tone': Narrating a National Story of Neighborhood in Alice Cary's *Clovernook*," Michelle Wood, Cedarville University

Friday, May 22, 2026
10:00-11:20 am

Session 9-A Civil War Legacies (Indiana)
Organized by the Civil War Caucus

Chair: Andrew Donnelly, University of Memphis

1. "Frederick Douglass in Children's Literature," Brigitte Fielder, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2. "Huck, Pinocchio, and Other *Verismo* Boys," Benjamin Cooper, Lindenwood University
3. "'The Pine and the Palm': A Recurring Sectional Image/ry in the Civil War and Reconstruction Era," John R. McKivigan, Indiana University Indianapolis

Session 9-B Claude McKay in Transition/in Translation (Kimball)
Organized by the Claude McKay Society

Chair: Gary Holcomb, Ohio University

1. “McKay’s ‘Angry’ Sonnets,” Marc Blanc, Saint Xavier University
2. “McKay’s Catholic Poetry,” Ann Marie Jakubowski, Valparaiso University
3. “The French Translations and Reception of McKay,” Anne Reynès-Delobel, Aix-Marseille Université

Session 9-C Katherine Anne Porter and Other Writers (Logan)
Organized by The Katherine Anne Porter Society

Chair: Darlene Harbour Unrue, University of Nevada Las Vegas

1. “Lazarus, Come Forth: Katherine Anne Porter's Resurrection on YouTube," Allen Lee Ireland, Independent Scholar and Poet
2. “Katherine Anne Porter and Hannah Arendt: Shared Affinities,” Jerry Findley, Independent Scholar
3. “Mythic Imagery in Katherine Anne Porter and Tennessee Williams,” Mark Joseph King, Independent Scholar

Session 9-D Postwar Celebrity, Fame, and Infamy (Salon 1)
Organized by the Postwar/Contemporary Literature Group

Chair: Jesse Zuba, Delaware State University

1. “‘a headline he has long awaited’: Celebrity in Autofiction,” Daniel Wartham, University of South Carolina
2. “‘The Shortest Road to Hero’: Repetition, Celebrity, and Infamy in *Libra*,” Stephen Hager, University of Virginia
3. “‘Tragedy is Vastly Preferred to Absurdity’: The Size of the Killer in Mailer’s *Oswald’s Tale*,” Jacqueline Foertsch, University of North Texas
4. “Paperback Writers and the Elvis Problem: How Pulp Fiction Failed Popular Music's Revolt into Style,” Kirk Curnutt, Troy University

Session 9-E: Hidden Presences: Passing, Fugitivity, and Haunting (Salon 2)
Organized by the African American Literature and Culture Society

Chair: Sabrina Evans-Rangel, Howard University

1. “Just Passing Through: Shapeshifting in Nella Larsen’s *Passing*,” Victoria Moten, Howard University
2. “Playing in the Dark: James Weldon Johnson’s *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* and Textual Passing in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*,” Richard Gabri, Independent Scholar
3. “‘There is a world happening there’: Rest, Bedlife, and Fugitivity in James Baldwin’s *If Beale Street Could Talk*,” Sophie Tindle-Betts, University of British Columbia
4. “Black Women’s Horror and History: Tananarive Due, Del Sandeen, and Megan Giddings,” Melanie A. Marotta, College of William & Mary

Session 9-F AI in the Literature Classroom: Challenges, Frustrations, Solutions (Salon 7)

Organized by the Digital Americanists Society

Chair: Stefan Schöberlein, Texas A & M University—Central Texas

1. Tara Russey, Washington & Jefferson College
2. Kenneth Michael Hoover, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
3. Cynthia Mbagwu, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
4. Micah Bateman, University of Iowa
5. Celena E. Kusch, University of South Carolina Upstate

Session 9-G New Directions in Early American Poetry Studies (Salon 12)
Organized by the Society of Early Americanists

Chair: Lucas Hardy, Youngstown State University

1. "Philip Freneau's American Trees," Joshua Bartlett, High Point University
2. "Formalism, Poetry, and Confusion in the American Revolution," Daniel Diez Couch, United States Air Force Academy
3. "'Our Patriot Pen': Women's Poetry of Independence in the Revolutionary Era," Brianna Duffin, Independent Scholar

Session 9-I The American Short Story and Environmental Racism (Madison)
Organized by: Nathaniel Erickson-Hawlish, Victoria College and Jennifer Hedges, Kent State University, in cooperation with the The Society for the Study of the American Short Story

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

1. "The Trauma of Being a Hero in The Face of Racism," David Roberts, Kent State University
2. "Soul-Starvation and Living Death in Rebecca Harding Davis's 'Life in the Iron Mills,'" Jennifer Hedges, Kent State University
3. "Extraction in Richard Wright's 'Down by the Riverside,'" Nathaniel Erickson-Hawlish, Victoria College

Session 9-J Roundtable: The Epistles of John: Updike's Life in Letters (Marshfield)
Organized by the John Updike Society

Chair: Sylvie Mathé, Aix-Marseille University

1. Peter Bailey, St. Lawrence University
2. Marshall Boswell, Rhodes College
3. Jim Schiff, University of Cincinnati
4. Matthew Shipe, Washington University

Session 9-K: Alcott and Europe (Salon 5)

Organized by the Louisa May Alcott Society

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

1. "Reworking the Travel Narrative: Louisa May Alcott's 'My Style' and the Composition of *Shawl-Straps*," Daniel Shealy, University of North Carolina Charlotte
2. "Virginie, Victor, and the *Fair/Dark* Paradigm: The Politics of Sensationalized Spanish Characters in *V.V.; or, Plots and Counterplots,*" Emma Horst, Loyola University Chicago
3. "She resolved to be a[...] woman": Deconstructing Americanized Gender Terminology in *Little Women,*" Declan A. Langton, University of Maryland, College Park
4. "Productive Intermarriages: European Affiliations and Alternative Masculinities in Louisa May Alcott," Anna De Biasio, University of Bergamo

Session 9-L Wharton and Pedagogy (Salon 6)
Organized by the Edith Wharton Society

Chair: Meredith Goldsmith, Ursinus College

1. "Teaching Wharton Outside the University," Steven J. Venturino, Independent Scholar
2. "Class Consciousness and the City: Re-interpreting Edith Wharton and Her Contemporaries," Stacy Stingle, Louisiana State University
3. "A multidisciplinary Approach to Teaching Wharton's *The Fruit of the Tree*," Maria-Novella Mercuri, University College London
4. "'A fantastic gateway to learning about important debates': Teaching a Senior Seminar on Henry James and Edith Wharton," Leslie Petty, Rhodes College

Session 9-M Western American Literature I (Salon 8)
Organized by the Western Literature Association

Chair: Travis Franks, Utah State University

1. "Perceptions of Western Justice in Realism and Naturalism," Rob Welch, Independent Scholar
2. "Meritocracy, Mobility, and Capitalist Exclusion in *McTeague* and *Jude the Obscure*" Kyeongmin Hwang, University of Texas at Dallas

Session 9-N Business Meeting: Eudora Welty Society (Salon 9)

Session 9-O Making "Elbow Room": Expanding the Range of Black Characters and Black Life in African American Literature: A Discussion of the Short Stories of James Alan McPherson (Salon 10)

Chair: Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University

1. Herman Beavers, University of Pennsylvania

2. ZZ Packer, Vanderbilt University
3. Rachel McPherson (James Alan McPherson's daughter)
4. Allen Gee, Columbus State University

Friday, May 22, 2026
11:30 am – 12:50 pm

Session 10-A Asian American Poetics (Indiana)
Organized by the Circle for Asian American Literary Studies

Chair: Jennifer Cho, University of Maryland

1. "'A Magnitude in Motion': Remaking Shaminism in Contemporary Korean American Poetry," Zavi Kang Engles, University of Southern California
2. "Low Hanging Fruit?: Asian American Cuisine and the Poetic Form," Timothy K. August, Stony Brook University
3. "Bad Guesthood: Proximity and Disidentification in the Work of José Garcia Villa," Lillian Quijano Johnson, Princeton University

Session 10-B Claude McKay: New Readings of McKay's Fiction (Kimball)
Organized by the Claude McKay Society

Chair: Agnieszka Tuszynska, Queensborough Community College, CUNY

1. "Black Vagabond Aesthetics: Drinking and Eating in Claude McKay's *Banjo*," Merry Cockroft, University of Notre Dame
2. "'Common Black Wenches': Colonialism, Gender, and Christianity in Claude McKay's *Banana Bottom*," Shalima Wellington, Johns Hopkins University
3. "Home to Blackness: Afro-Modernism and Space in the Fiction of Claude McKay," Jamel T. West, Florida Atlantic University

Session 10-C New Scholarship in Cather Studies (Logan)
Organized by the Willa Cather Foundation

Chair: Kelsey Squire, Ohio Dominican University

1. "'On This Very Hill': Narratives of Conquest in Willa Cather's *A Lost Lady*," Maya Charlton, Lehigh University
2. "'Boys Like You and Me': Queer Nationalism in Willa Cather's *The Professor's House*," Sarah Coduto, Stanford University
3. "Saving the Cream: Fatness, Feeding, and Community in Willa Cather's 'Neighbor Rosicky,'" Paul Grosskopf, University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

4. "The Compositional Chronology of *My Mortal Enemy,"* Melissa Homestead, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Session 10-D The Posthumous Legacies of Ernest J. Gaines (Salon 1)
Organized by the Ernest J. Gaines Society

Chair: David Squires, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

1. "Reading Ontological Terror and Ontometaphysical Death in Ernest J. Gaines's *A Lesson Before Dying,*" Charlene Caruthers, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
2. "Of Gaines and Genre," Martin Griffin, University of Tennessee Knoxville
3. "Down South to Stay: Ernest Gaines and the Legacy of Remigration," Terrence Tucker, University of Memphis
4. "Prosperity On Purpose and On Pointe: Pointe Coupée Parish and the Legacy of Ernest J. Gaines Inspiring the Next Generations of Literary Giants," Katrice Albert, University of Kentucky

Session 10-E Contemporary Experimentation (Salon 2)

Chair: Ali Chetwynd, American University in Bulgaria

1. "'Uncaged': Literary Autonomy in Rachel Kushner's *The Mars Room*," Ryan M. Brooks, West Texas A&M University
2. "Fragmented Memory and Sensory Resistance in Valeria Luiselli's *Lost Children Archive*," Naeemah Jawan Alrasheedi, Qassim University, Saudi Arabia

Session 10-F Midcentury Women Writers (Salon 7)

Chair: Martha J. Cutter, University of Connecticut

1. "Joan Didion and Rhetorical Narratology," Domenic Cregan, Ohio State University
2. "Re-Envisioning Red: Inter-Artistic (Re)productions of the Image in the Work of Sylvia Plath," Jessica Holmes, Coastal Carolina University
3. "Migrancy, Mobility, and Literary Authority in Maeve Brennan," April D. Fallon, Saint Xavier University

Session 10-G Teaching Early American Literature Outside the Survey Course (Salon 6)
Organized by the Society of Early Americanists

Chair: Joshua Bartlett, High Point University

1. "Advertising Early American Literature," Antonia Halstead, Brown University
2. "Teaching *Moby-Dick* as Multimodal Communication in ENGL 1102 at a STEM Institution," Randall Harrell, Georgia Institute of Technology

3. “Special Interest, Special Topics: Same Text, New Packaging,” Matthew Harrington, University of Tennessee Southern

Session 10-I William Dean Howells’ Work and Influence: From Ecology to Melodrama (Madison)
Organized by the William Dean Howells Society

Chair: Paul Petrie, Southern Connecticut State University

1. “"Ecology in Howells’s Realism: A Look at *A Hazard of New Fortunes*,” Rachel McBride, Liberty University
2. “Claus Out—Survival of the Fittest Santa Claus: How the Environmental Impact of American’s Civil War Evolved the Figure of Clement Clarke Moore’s Romantic Santa into a Genus of William Dean Howells’ Realistic Santa,” Nicholas T. Kubik, Northern Illinois University
3. “Walter Hines Page, ‘Contemporaneous History,’ and Race Melodrama,” Jonathan Daigle, University of Hartford

Session 10-J Crossroads, Critics, and Conferences: Legacies and Impact (Marshfield)
Organized by Irish American Writers and Artists

Chair: Lori Cassels, Independent Scholar

1. “Crosbhóthar - Irish for Crossroads- Explores the legacy of Malachy McCourt and the artistic and cultural crossroads where Black American experience meets the long tradition of Irish storytelling,” Myss UneeK, Independent Scholar
2. “A Close Encounter of the Most Impactful Kind- Irish Women Writers Come to New York 1990. The influence on Irish women writers at introduction to America at the Fourth International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women,” Mary Pat Kelly, Independent Scholar
3. “The Legacy and Impact of Theater Critic Joseph Hurley on Irish America's Cultural Landscape in New York City,” Kate Shea Kennon, Fordham University

Session 10-K: Louisa May Alcott’s Short Stories: A Roundtable (Salon 5)
Organized by the Louisa May Alcott Society

Chair: Gregory Eiselein, Kansas State University

1. “Half-Brothers, Half-Murders, and Half-Marriages: Race, Revenge, Romance, and Reunion in Alcott’s ‘My Contraband,’” Evan J. Leake, Indiana University-Bloomington
2. “Trains as (Transition)al Spaces: Gender and Fugitivity in ‘My Mysterious Mademoiselle,’” Alice Rutkowski, SUNY Geneseo
3. “In my Berth, Done Up like a Mummy”: Overdosage, Empathy, and the Medical Profession in Alcott,” Joe Hansen, Loyola University Chicago
4. “‘Each did what he could’: Immigrant Economies in Louisa May Alcott’s Stories for Children,” Roxanne Harde, University of Alberta

5. "'The Humor as Well as the Pathos': Parsing the Prose of Alcott's *A Round Dozen*," Anne K. Phillips, Kansas State University

Session 10-L Fin de Siècle Women Writers (Salon 6)

Chair: W. Scott Cheney, Collin College

1. "Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* as a Philological Roman à Clef," Jack Kerkering, Loyola University Chicago
2. "Provisional Interiors: Spatial Precarity and Gendered Vulnerability in Edith Wharton"s Short Stories," Meg Hanna, University of South Florida
3. "'Why Do you Try to Put Your Ideals Up Against the Facts?': The Impact of Modernism in Rachel Crothers's *A Man's World* (1909)," Cara Schuster, Northern Illinois University

Session 10-O A Roundtable on Mentoring and the Future of Author Societies (Salon 10)
Organized by The Philip Roth Society

Chair: Aimee Pozorski, Central Connecticut State University

1. Matthew Shipe, Washington University at St. Louis
2. Joseph Ozias, Central Methodist University
3. James Schiff, University of Cincinnati
4. Kirk Curnutt, Troy University
5. Tanya Tromble-Giraud, Aix-Marseille University

Friday, May 22, 2026
1:00-2:20 pm

Session 11-A Model Minorities at the Margins of Asian America (Indiana)
Organized by the Circle for Asian American Literary Studies

Chair: Rei Magosaki, Chapman University

1. "Minor Subjects: Asian Racial Form After COVID-19," Julia H. Lee, UC Irvine
2. "Understanding the Mythology of the Model Minority Myth," L. Maria Bo, Stanford University
3. "Disoriented: Racial Satire and Asian American Authorship in Elaine Hsieh Chou's *Disorientation* and R.F. Kuang's *Yellowface*," Timothy Yu, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Session 11-B Intertextuality in the Work of Joyce Carol Oates (Kimball)
Organized by the Joyce Carol Oates Society

Chair: Frédérique Spill, University of Picardy Jules Verne

1. "The Pretty Things Are Going To Hell: *Foxfire* as Joyce Carol Oates's *Peter Pan*," Randy Souther, University of San Francisco
2. "The Confusion of Self-Invention in the Fiction of Joyce Carol Oates," Dorota Olivia Horvath, Independent Scholar
3. "Joyce Carol Oates's 'Wolf's Head Lake' as a Revisiting of 'Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?'", Tanya Tromble-Giraud, Aix-Marseille Université
4. "From the Gothic Experiment to Experimental Gothic: Joyce Carol Oates's Poetics of the Trace," Maud Bougerol, Aix-Marseille Université

Session 11-C New Approaches to Traditional Naturalist Texts (Logan)
Organized by the Society for the Study of American Literary Naturalism

Chair: Cara Kilgallen, Sacred Heart University

1. "Naturalist Tendrils and Generic Slippage in Mary E. Wilkins Freeman's *The Portion of Labor,*" Georgia Testa, Rhode Island College
2. "'Do All Roads Lead to Bloomington?": Theodore Dreiser and Higher Education," Meredith Goldsmith, Ursinus College
3. "The Strange God of a Naturalist: London, Nature, and the Big Question," Steven Frye, California State University at Bakersfield

Session 11-D Amiri Baraka: 'A Poem Some People Will Have To Understand' (Salon 1)
Organized by the Amiri Baraka Society

Chair: Sabrina Evans-Rangel, Howard University

1. 'Wherever I go to claim': Revisiting *The Dead Lecturer,"* Benjamin Lee, University of Tennessee
2. '"Three Modes of History and a Coda': The Last Days of LeRoi Jones," Aldon Lynn Nielsen, Penn State University
3. "Notes off the Page: Amiri Baraka and the Space for Jazz," Claudia Moreno Parsons, Oxnard College

Session 11-E Pairing Poe in the Classroom (Salon 2)
Organized the Poe Studies Association

Chair: Philip Edward Phillips, Middle Tennessee State University

1. "Seeing and Seaing Wrong: Poe, Melville, and Interpretive Failure at Sea," Sam Gleason, Pellissippi State Community College
2. "Teaching the Abyss of Justification: Poe, Ngũgĩ, and the Collapse of Oppressive Rationalizations," Juliet Tawiah, Northern Illinois University
3. "Poe and Poe AI: Calculating Fictions and The Philosophy of Artificial Composition," Craig Carey, University of Southern Mississippi

Session 11-F Postwar Consumerism and Consumption (Salon 7)
Organized by the Postwar/Contemporary Literature Group

Chair: Whit Frazier Peterson, University of Stuttgart

1. "The Rise of the Working-Class Cop in the Novels of Ed McBain," Joseph George, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
2. "Consuming American Lesbian Pulp Fiction and Creating Community," Kathryn Klein, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
3. "Afrodisiacs: Race, Beauty, and Food in the Novels of Toni Morrison," Grace Bernadette McGowan, Colby College

Session 11-G The Midwest in American Literature (Salon 12)

Chair: Eric Aronoff, Michigan State University

1. "'the determination to punish': Jane Addams and the Marginalization of Anarchism," Dan Colson, McPherson College
2. "Mapping the Ethnic Neighborhood: Stuart Dybek's Chicago," Izabella Kimak, Maria Curie-Sklodowska University
3. "Midwestern Blankness: Cultural Production and Regional Identity in the Post-Cold War Era," Owen Cantrell, Perimeter College at Georgia State University

Session 11-J Jewett Now and Then: a Roundtable (Salon 10)
Organized by the Sarah Orne Jewett Society

Chair: Anna E. Beaudry, Baylor University

1. Rachael DeWitt, Washington University in St. Louis
2. June Howard, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor
3. Don James McLaughlin, University of Tulsa
4. Melissa Homestead, University of Nebraska - Lincoln
5. Sarah Ensor, University of Wisconsin - Madison
6. Cécile Roudeau, Université Paris Cité

Session 11-K: Literary Interrogations of Memory (Salon 5)

Chair: Savannah Barrow, Georgia Southern University

1. "What Does Memory Feel Like?: Embodied Memories in Vietnamese American Literature," Gwendolyn Bellinger, Monash University
2. "Exploring Culinary Epistemology and Storied-Memories through Gastro Poetry," Saima Afreen, Illinois State University

3. “Unstable Gifts: Misfire, Mutation, and Deferred Message in *Love Medicine*,” Takayuki Iwami, Texas A&M University

Session 11-L Business Meeting: ALA Graduate Student Organization (Wabash)

Session 11-O Philip Roth Goes Global (Salon 6)
Organized by the Philip Roth Society

Chair: Aimee Pozorski, Central Connecticut State University

1. “Global Americas: Media and Generational Difference in American Pastoral,” Aidan Vick, Boston College
2. “Jewish American Literature as Neither Jewish nor American: On the Worldliness of Roth and Joshua Cohen,” Benjamin Seigle, University of Illinois, Chicago
3. “A Midwestern Madame Bovary,” David Eick, Grand Valley State University

Friday, May 22, 2026
2:30-3:50 pm

Session 12-A The Gothic's Successor Genres (Indiana)
Organized by The Society for the Study of Southern Literature

Chair: Brian J. Twenter, Central Oklahoma University

1. "“Grady Hendrix's Southern Gothic: From Haunting to Hope," Kate Cochran, University of Southern Mississippi
2. "'Deep Red Bells': Shallow Graves and Uneven Development in *True Crime's* South," Jennie Lightweis-Goff
3. "Gritty Gothic Noir: The Evolution of the Southern Gothic in Michael Farris Smith," Peter Ingrao, University of Texas at Dallas

Session 12-B Unsettling the Confessional Canon (Kimball)
Organized by the Robert Lowell Society

Chair: Nikki Skillman, Indiana University Bloomington

1. “Confessional Paratexts and Confessional Canonicity,” Nicole Salama, Loyola University, Chicago
2. “The Confessional Moment: Brooks, Snodgrass, Sexton, and Lowell,” Steven G. Axelrod, University of California, Riverside
3. “Hedging Cousin Harriet’s House: Robert Lowell, Privacy, and the Paradox of Public Space,” Grzegorz Kosc, University of Warsaw

Session 12-C Neo-Naturalisms I: Multi-Ethnic American Naturalisms (Logan)
Organized by the Society for the Study of American Literary Naturalism

Chair: Adam H. Wood, Georgia College & State University

1. "Naturalism and the Chinese American Western," Ryan Wander, Valdosta State University,
2. "'This soil is bad for certain kinds of flowers': Determinism and the Ethics of Care in *The Bluest Eye,*" Salvador Ayala Camarillo, Stanislaus State University,
3. "American Naturalism, Free Will, and Jewish Immigrant Voices," Cara Kilgallen, Sacred Heart University

Session 12-D F.Scott Fitzgerald's *All the Sad Young Men* (1926): A Centenary Discussion (Salon 1)
Organized by the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society

Chair: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University

1. Jennifer Nolan, North Carolina State University
2. Robert Trogdon, Kent State University
3. Michelle E. Moore, College of DuPage
4. Ross K. Tangedal, University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point

Session 12-E Literary Movements after Poe (Salon 2)
Organized by Margarida Vale de Gato of the Poe Studies Association

Chair: Margarida Vale de Gato, Universidade de Lisboa

1. "The Fall of the House of Nowak: Esmé Weijun Wang's Revision of Edgar Allan Poe," Andy Harper, St. Louis University
2. "Rosa Arciniega's Descent into Poe's Maelstrom," Micah K. Donohue, Eastern New Mexico University
3. "Cannibalizing Poe: The 'Pure Potential' of White Monstrosity in Edgar Allan Poe and Mónica Ojeda," Noah Reed Miranda, Smittcamp Family Honors College at California State University, Fresno

Session 12-F Class, Caste, and Politics in Chesnutt's Fiction (Salon 7)
Organized by the Charles W. Chesnutt Association

Chair: Bill Hardwig, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

1. "Signifyin(g) the Southern *Ivanhoe*: Charles W. Chesnutt's Critique of Racialized Medievalism in *The House Behind the Cedars*," Chen Hsiang-Lin, National Taiwan University
2. "The Blue Vein Society and The Groveland Stories: Representations of the Black Midwest in Charles Chesnutt's *The Wife of His Youth*," Amina Gautier, Scripps College
3. "Plumber Politicians and Barber Kingmakers: Chesnutt's *The Rainbow Chasers* and Black Republican Patronage Politics in the 1890s," Antje Anderson, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Session 12-G Atmospheric Freeman: Air, Aesthetics, & the Politics of Embodied Experience (Salon 12)
Organized by the Mary E. Wilkins Freeman Society

Chair: June Howard, University of Michigan

1. "The Hyphen in Mary Wilkins Freeman's Neural Machinery," Don James McLaughlin, University of Tulsa
2. "The Curious Smell of Leather: The Atmosphere of Female Labor Pains in Freeman's *A Portion of Labor*," Ariel Silver, Southern Virginia University
3. "Atmospheric Labor and Gothic Capital in Mary E. Wilkins Freeman's 'The Southwest Chamber'," Kyeongmin Hwang, The Texas University at Dallas
4. "Reading Mary E. Wilkins Freeman's Politics of Air in Conversation with Pauline E. Hopkins," Lisa Bognenko, Université Paris Cité
5. 'A draught of cold air': An Eco-Gothic Reading of Freeman's Lost Ghosts," Cécile Roudeau, Université Paris Cité

Session 12-I Stoic Survival in American Literature and Culture (Madison)
Organizer: LuElla D'Amico, University of the Incarnate Word
Chair: Christopher Allan Black, University of Memphis

1. "Jozef Tischner and Walker Percy: Transatlantic (Inter-)Personalisms Contra Stoicism," Artur Sebastian Rosman, University of Notre Dame
2. "Heraclitus and Marcus Aurelius in Octavia E. Butler's Parable Series," Gregory Eiselein, Kansas State University
3. "True Grit: Resilience, Endurance, and the American Stoic Girl," LuElla D'Amico, University of the Incarnate Word

Session 12-J Mark Twain in the Writing Laboratory: Character, Geography, and Race (Marshfield)
Organized by the Mark Twain Circle

Chair: Judith Yaross Lee, Ohio University

1. "The Afterlives of *Tom Sawyer* and *Huck Finn* at Mid-Century,'' Jeff Abernathy, Alma College
2. "Dead Level: Twain and the Bonneville Salt Flats," Kyle Kamaiopili, Utah Valley University
3. "Bad Boys in Blackface: The Letters of Mark Twain to Joel Chandler Harris," Ann M. Ryan, Le Moyne College

Respondent: Lawrence Howe, Roosevelt University

Session 12-K: Feeling for Black Men: Examining Space and Sentience in Black Life (Salon 5)
Organized by the American Literature Society

Chair: Song Namgung, Auburn University

1. ”A Litany of Grief: *Song of Solomon*, Black Masculinity, and Black Mourning Spaces,” Calandra Warren, University of Illinois Urbana – Champaign
2. “I Wonder How They Feel About Themselves?”: Interrogating Racial Absurdity in Richard Wright’s *The Man Who Lived Underground*,” Laurence Hall, University of California – Irvine
3. "'Trying to Run from the Pain': Sound, Silence, and Survival in Jesmyn Ward's *Men We Reaped,*" Janie Bowen, Auburn University

Session 12-L: Business Meeting: Postwar/Contemporary Literature Group (Salon 6)

Session 12-M: Western American Literature II (Salon 8)
Organized by the Western Literature Association

Chair: Tom Hertweck, Fordham University

1. “Race, Place, and the Freeway Novel,” Lauren White, University of Southern California
2. “'Not a horror story, but not a fantasy either': Time as Kinship in *The Art Thieves*,” John Gamber, University of California, Irvine
3. “The Eden of the West was there!': John Rollin Ridge’s Poetic Response to Bryant’s ‘The Prairies,’” Travis Franks, Utah State University

Session 12-N Calling it by its Name: A Critical Discussion of White U.S. Literature (Salon 9)
Organizer: Ryan Sharp, Baylor University

Chair: Aldon Lynn Nielsen, Penn State University

1. “What is White U.S. Literature?”, Stephanie Li, Duke University
2. “A Ritual Sacrifice: The Black Gaze on Whiteness in Gore Vidal’s *The City and the Pillar*,” Ronnel Keith Berry, Austin Peay State University
3. “No Glory: White Revision in Robert Lowell’s *Benito Cereno*,” Sumita Chakraborty University of Virginia

Friday, May 22, 2026
4:00-5:20 pm

Session 14-A E. E. Cummings: Image, Play, Allegory, and Imagination (Indiana)
Organized by the E. E. Cummings Society

Chair: Bernard Stehle, Community College of Philadelphia

1. "'O tremendous flower': Negotiating Meaning in Cummings' Favorite Natural Image," W. Scott Cheney, Collin College
2. "Beyond *The Enormous Room*: The Faith of E. E. Cummings and the Allegory of the Lower Case," Gillian Huang-Tiller, University of Virginia, Wise
3. "Cummings' Portraits of Beggars and Workers," Michael Webster, Grand Valley State University

Session 14-B Entirely Idle: Melvillean Leisure, Laziness, and Labor (Kimball)
Organized by The Melville Society

Chair: Schuyler Chapman, Glenville State University

1. "Bartleby in Little Syria: *The Book of Khalid* and the Rhetoric of Producerism," Gianna Bacchetta, Tufts University
2. "'So, through consumptive pallors of this blank, raggy life, go these white girls to death': Melville and Mill Girls' Racialized Labor," Kassie Jo Baron, University of Tennessee at Martin
3. "Melville's Indian-Hating and Thoreau's 'Indian Life,'" John J. Kucich, Bridgewater State University

Respondent, Ivy Wilson, Northwestern University

Session 14-C New Directions in Philip Roth Studies (Logan)
Organized by the Philip Roth Society

Chair: Maggie McKinley, Harper College

1. "Philip Roth and the Passage to Assimilation," Darryl Moton, University of Iowa
2. "No Harmless Flirtation: A Linguistic Breakdown of Roth's Use of Seduction," Ross Berger, USC and ArtCenter College of Design
3. "Philip Roth's Flowers: A New Ecology," Aimee Pozorski, Central Connecticut State University

Session 14-D F. Scott Fitzgerald II (Salon 1)
Organized by the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society

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

1. "Masculinity, Mobility, and the Metropolitan Closet in *The Great Gatsby*," Maggie Gordon Froehlich, The Pennsylvania State University, Hazleton
2. "Fitzgerald at Home: Real Residences and Idealized Interiors in His Writing," Tom Flynn, Independent Scholar
3. "The Racial Uncanny in F. Scott Fitzgerald's 'The Dance'," Richard Gabri, The Bentley School and Destiney Linker, The Bentley School

Session 14-E *Errand into the Wilderness* at 70 (Salon 2)
Organized by the Society of Early Americanists

Chair: Abram van Engen, Washington University in Saint Louis

1. "Errand *out* of the Wilderness? Poetic Departures from Perry Miller's Puritan Mind," Lucas Hardy, Youngstown State University
2. "The Neoliberal Calling: Reading Perry Miller's *Errand into the Wilderness* into American Neoliberal Discourse," Marcus Heiligenthal, Bentley University
3. "Seeking the 'Imponderable Bloom': The Wilderness in 'The Machine Stops' and *Silo*," Kara McCormack, Bilkent University
4. "The Jonathan Edwards That Perry Miller Made: American Exceptionalism vs. Transatlantic Evangelicalisms," Lucas Nossaman, North Greenville University

Respondent: Abram van Engen, Washington University in Saint Louis

Session 14-F Chesnutt's Conjuring of Community Through Language (Salon 7)
Organized by the Charles W. Chesnutt Association

Chair: Amina Gautier, Scripps College

1. "Building Information Literacy in the Age of Misinformation through *The Conjure Woman*," Justin Smith, Randolph-Macon College
2. "Conjuration and Chesnutt's Intervention to the Genre of Realistic Fiction in *The Marrow of Tradition*," Huimin Li, University of Rochester
3. "Postbellum, Mid-Harlem: Chesnutt in the 1920s," Bill Hardwig, University of Tennessee

Session 14-G A Reading of Claude McKay's *Letters in Exile: Transnational Journeys of a Harlem Renaissance Writer*, eds. Brooks E. Hefner and Gary Edward Holcomb (Yale University Press, 2025) (Salon 12)

Planned Readers: Gary Holcomb, Ohio University; Marc Blanc, Saint Xavier University; Merry Cockroft, University of Notre Dame; Catherine Grech, Cégep de Saint-Laurent, Montreal; Martin Griffin, University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Ann Marie Jakubowski, Valparaiso University; Anne Reynès-Delobel, Aix-Marseille Université; Agnieszka Tuszynska, Queensborough Community College, CUNY

Refer to the Special Events section for more information.

Session 14-I New Perspectives on Octavia E. Butler (Madison)
Organized by the Octavia E. Butler Society

Chair: Erin Bell, University of Detroit Mercy

1. "Productive Dyads: Examining Hybridity in Octavia E. Butler's *Fledglings*," Mary T. Moore, Ohio University

2. "Octavia Butler as Urban Planner: Detroit is an Afrofuturist City and Earthseed is the Blueprint," Victoria Moten, Howard University
3. "Analyzing the Tropic Relationship Between *Passing*'s Jack Bellow and Hugh Wentworth with *Kindred*'s Rufus Weylin and Kevin Franklin," Barri Taylor, Southeast Missouri State University

Session 14-J Teaching Mark Twain Today (Marshfield)
Organized by the Mark Twain Circle

Chair: Jeanne Campbell Reesman, University of Texas at San Antonio

1. "Teaching Twain Then and Now: 'the Strong and Simple Speech' of Mary Ann Cord," Karyn Hixson, Northwest Vista College
2. "Five Things You Need to Know to Teach Mark Twain's No. 44: The Mysterious Stranger," Joseph Csicsila. Eastern Michigan University
3. "The Next Mark Twain? From Close Reading to post-Reading," Bruce Michelson, University of Illinois

Session 14-O How My Mind Has Changed: A Roundtable Discussion (Wabash)
(In this roundtable, a group of scholars will reflect on works they have published, noting the reception of these works and indicating how they might approach their subjects differently today.)

Chair: Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University

1. Trudier Harris, University of Alabama, author of *From Mammies to Militants* (1982, 2023)
2. Meredith L. McGill, Rutgers University, author of *American Literature and the Culture of Reprinting, 1837-1853* (2003)
3. Stephen M. Best, University of California, Berkeley, author of *The Fugitive's Properties: Law and the Poetics of Possession* (2004)
4. Kenneth Warren, University of Chicago, author of *What Was African American Literature?* (2010)
5. Eliza Richards, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, author of *Gender and the Poetics of Reception in Poe's Circle* (2011)

Friday, May 22, 2026
5:30 – 6:15 pm

Session 15-A: Business Meeting: Irish American Writers and Artists (Indiana)

Session 15-B: Business Meeting: Cormac McCarthy Society (Kimball)

Session 15-C: Business Meeting: William Dean Howells Society (Logan)

Session 15-D: Business Meeting: Digital Americanists Society (Salon 1)

Session 15-E: Business Meeting: Society for the Study of the American Short Story (Salon 2)

Session 15-F: Business Meeting: Louisa May Alcott Society (Salon 7)

Session 15-G: Business Meeting: Claude McKay Society (Salon 12)

Session 15-H: Business Meeting: Alice Cary Society (Salon 4)

Session 15-I: Business Meeting: Poe Studies Association (Madison)

Session 15-J: Business Meeting: Mark Twain Circle (Wabash)

Session 15-K: Business Meeting: Charles Chesnutt Society (Salon 5)

Session 15-L: Business Meeting: Sarah Orne Jewett Society (Salon 6)

Session 15-M: Business Meeting: E. E. Cummings Society (Salon 8)

Session 15-N: Business Meeting: Katherine Anne Porter Society (Salon 9)

Session 15-O: Business Meeting: Joyce Carol Oates Society (Salon 10)

Session 15-P: Business Meeting: Philip Roth Society (Marshfield)

6:00-8:30 pm
(Crystal Room)

African American Literature and Culture Society Reception Reading and Awards Ceremony

Co-sponsored by: the Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society, Charles Chesnutt Society, and the Toni Morrison Society

6:00-7:00 pm – Reception
7:00-8:30 pm – Reading and Award Ceremony

Kenneth Warren will receive the Darwin T. Turner Award, which celebrates excellence in scholarship in African American culture and literature.

Dana Williams will receive the Octavia E. Butler Award in memory of Consuela Francis, which recognizes outstanding contributions to African American literary scholarship made by a woman of color.

Julie Iromuanya will receive the Stephen Henderson Award which recognizes authors for outstanding achievement in literature and poetry.

Saturday, May 23, 2026

Registration: 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
Book Exhibit: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Saturday, May 23, 2026
8:30-9:50 am

Session 16-A Faulkner and Colors (Indiana)
Organized by the William Faulkner Society

Chair: Frédérique Spill, University of Picardy Jules Verne, France

1. "Painting Helen: Chromatic Aesthetics and the Handmade Book in Faulkner's New Orleans," Sarah Harrell, Georgia State University
2. "The Double Consciousness of Benjy's Neurodivergence in The Sound and the Fury," Kaiyue Hou, University of Bristol, UK
3. "William Faulkner in Black and White," Peter Lurie, University of Richmond
4. "Emily's Gone Gray: Preserving Faulkner's 'Most Select Street,'" Jennie Lightweis-Goff, Independent scholar

Session 16-B Hip Hop, Blues, and Jazz Aesthetics (Kimball)
Organized by the African American Literature and Culture Society

Chair: Justin Smith, Randolph-Macon College

1. "'Any pessimists, I ain't talk to them:' On Kanye West's Political Blues," Ajitpaul Mangat, Niagara University
2. "'The Tone of Their Voices Made Flesh': Billie Holiday's Transformational Resignification in Leon Forrest's *There Is a Tree More Ancient Than Eden*," Helen Ganiy, Rutgers University-New Brunswick
3. "Building Bridges Out of Ballads: Bruja Epistemologies in Jamila Woods' 'Sonia,'" Alicia Sowisdral, Florida Atlantic University

Session 16-C Don DeLillo and the Canon of Literature: A Roundtable (Logan)
Organized by the Don DeLillo Society

Chair: Jesse Kavadlo, Maryville University

1. "Doubling Dostoevsky: DeLillo's 'Midnight in Dostoevsky,'" Mark Osteen, Loyola University Maryland
2. "'Two Days Wrong!:' DeLillo's Textures of Time," Crystal Alberts, University of North Dakota

3. “He Writes in Your Voice, American: DeLillo and Some Paradoxes of the Great American Novel,” Jesse Kavadlo, Maryville University

Session 16-D Neo-Naturalisms II: Naturalism in Contemporary Popular Culture (Salon 1)
Organized by the Society for the Study of American Literary Naturalism

Chair: John Dudley, University of South Dakota

1. “Naturalism’s Body of Horror: William Peter Blatty’s *The Exorcist* and Stephen Graham Jones’ *Mapping the Interior*,” Nicole de Fee, Louisiana Tech University
2. “Naturalism, Pop Culture, and Social Unrest: Class Tensions and Gender Norms in Contemporary Naturalism,” Reba Mitchell, Rhode Island College
3. “AI and the Naturalist Character: When Technology Collides with Bad Decisions,” Anita Duneer, Rhode Island College

Session 16-E The Short Fiction of Carson McCullers: New Directions in Scholarship (Salon 2)
Organized by the Carson McCullers Society

Chair: Kristen Proehl, SUNY Brockport

1. "Southern Foodways in ‘The Ballad of the Sad Café,’" Nathaniel Erickson-Hawlish, Victoria College
2. “Disorder of Desire: Carson McCullers’ *Reflections in a Golden Eye* in Text and Film,” Erin Bell, University of Detroit Mercy

Session 16-F Where There's Life: Reading Liberated Futures in Multiethnic Literature (Salon 7)
Organized by the Society for the Study of Multi-ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS)

Chair: Sherry Johnson, Grand Valley State University

1. "Transhuman Reproduction as Imagined or Critiqued in Decolonial Futurist Short Fiction by Octavia Butler, Nisi Shawl, and Nnedi Okorafor," Sandra Cox, Southeast Missouri State University
2. "Liberation from Faith, Loss, and its Hauntings in R. O. Kwon's *The Incendiaries*," Sara Lee, Hofstra University
3. "Archipelagic Imaginings: Negotiations of Liberation in *Colored American Magazine*, 1900-1904," Leah Milne, University of Indianapolis

Session 16-G Celebrating 30 Years of *Infinite Jest* (Salon 12)
Organized by The International David Foster Wallace Society

Chair: Danielle S. Ely, The International David Foster Wallace Society

1. “Internal Head Speed: Time & Language in David Foster Wallace's *Infinite Jest* & ‘Good Old Neon,’” Britt Zeldenrust, Indiana University at Bloomington
2. “Polyphony Without Dialogue and Carnival Without Laughter: David Foster Wallace’s *Infinite Jest* Through Mikhail Bakhtin,” Kirill Veselkin, University of Texas at Austin
3. “The Future History of O.N.A.N.: Remediation in *Infinite Jest,”* Gwendolyn Hostetter, Georgia Institute of Technology

Session 16-I Pauline E. Hopkins's America Then & Now (Madison)
Organized by the Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society

Chair: Courtney Novosat, Carnegie Mellon University

1. “Contradictory Capital, Conflicted Nation: Washington, D.C., Social Change, and the Nation in 'General Washington (A Christmas Story),’” Katie Googe, Purdue University
2. “'How we are at a small scale is how we are at a large scale': Friendship and Politics in Pauline Hopkins’s *Contending Forces*,” Ziz Kilmer, Independent Scholar
3. “From Suspended Animation to Reunification: Refound Selfhood in *Contending Forces*,” Betsy Geiselman, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Session 16-J Reimagining a “Self”: Black Boys/Men at the Intersection of Morality and Freedom (Wabash)
Organized by the American Literature Society

Chair: Laurence Hall, University of California, Irvine

1. “Will and Ethics in *If Beale Street Could Talk* and *Mama Day*,” Song Namgung, Auburn University
2. “Finding Self and Freedom in Ta-Nehisi Coates’ *The Water Dancer,”* Maria Rice Bellamy, College of Staten Island (CUNY)
3. “Incarcerated Black Boyhood in *Sing, Unburied, Sing*,” Sharanna Brown, Auburn University

Saturday, May 23, 2026
10:00-11:20 am

Session 17-A Faulkner Studies Today (Indiana)
Organized by the William Faulkner Society

Chair: Frédérique Spill, University of Picardy Jules Verne, France

1. “The Influence of Repudiation and The Making of William Faulkner,” Tucker Conine, University of Colorado-Boulder
2. “The De/Constructive Power of and: Benjy and the Narrative Heritage of Autism," Amelia Cruz, University of Southern California

Session 17-B Walt Whitman in the Classroom: Teaching America's Poet (Kimball)
Organized by the Whitman Studies Association

Co-Chairs: Stefan Schöberlein, Texas A & M University—Central Texas, and Stephanie M. Blalock, University of Iowa

1. "Whitman in a Week…or Two: Introducing the 'Father of Modern American Poetry,'" Kavita S. Hatwalkar, Central Methodist University
2. "Wound-dressing and Nursing in the Civil War Writing of Whitman and Alcott," Maire Mullins, Pepperdine University
3. "The Art of Exampling: Whitman's Refusal of the Great Man Theory," Trevin Corsiglia, Washington University in St. Louis
4. "'I stop somewhere waiting for you': Teaching Whitman's 'Song of Myself' as an Exploration of Radical Democracy," Eric A. Wolfe, University of North Dakota

Session 17-C: Teaching In Difficult Times, Part 1 (Logan)
Organized by the Margaret Fuller Society

Chair: Jana Argersinger, Fuller Society President

1. "Perspectives for Educational Development: What Do Faculty Need When Teaching in Difficult Times?", Marlowe Daly-Galeano, Lewis-Clark State College
2. "Teaching Students Who Are Having a Difficult Time," Katie Livingston, Stanford Humanities Center
3. "Black Educator Burnout: Defining our Experience and Exploring Solutions to Heal and Sustain," Jordyn Adams, KIPP DC and The Conscious Collective, and Jerone Morris, Pittsburgh Public School District and Remember Home

Session 17-D Neo-Naturalisms III: Late 20th/Early 21st Century Fiction (Salon 1)
Organized by the Society for the Study of American Literary Naturalism

Chair: Ryan Wander, Valdosta State University

1. "Won't Someone Please Think of the Children: The Place of Naturalism in Young Adult Literature," Michael Martin, Stephen F. Austin State University
2. "American Literary Naturalism in the Work of Annie Proulx," Ryan Stryffeler, Slippery Rock University
3. "'Both sides of the border': Narcoculture, Popular Fiction, and the Naturalist Ethos in Don Winslow's Cartel Trilogy," John Dudley, University of South Dakota

Session 17-E "I Am the Darker Brother": Metaphors of Family in Langston Hughes and His Contemporaries (Salon 2)
Organized by the Langston Hughes Society

Chair: Joseph G. Ramsey, University of Massachusetts Boston

1. "From Shakespeare to Harlem, to *Shakespeare in Harlem*, Langston Hughes and the Importance of Family and Collaboration," Timothy Hering, Duquesne University
2. "Nation as Family from 'I, Too' through 'Theme for English B,'" Richard Hancuff, Misericordia University
3. "'Dear Brother at Home': Langston Hughes and the Spanish Civil War," Noreen O'Connor, King's College

Session 17-F Latina/o/x Eco-Writing, Games, and Journalism (Salon 7)
Organized by the Latina/o/x Literature and Culture Society

Chair: Tanya González, Kansas State University

1. "Role-Playing Games and Racial Performance in *Operación Bolívar,"* Ceazar A. Castañeda, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2. "Julia de Burgos' Representation of Marginalized Subjects in *Pueblos Hispanos,*" Nilsa Rodriguez-Jaca, The Culinary Institute of America
3. "Lost in the Weeds: Early Borderland Eco-Writings and the Rise of American Empire," Ramon E. Soto-Crespo, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Session 17–G Representing First Wave Feminism (Salon 12)

Chair: Amber Shaw, Coe College

1. "'Real, live individuals in feathers': The Lives of Birds in Women's Subversive Ornithology Writing," Emily VanDette, State University of New York at Fredonia
2. "Tailoring Memory: The Role of Textiles in Elizabeth Stoddard's *The Morgesons*," Kelly L. Richardson, Winthrop University
3. "Pedaling Against Convention: The Bicycle as the Medium of "The New Woman" in Octave Thanet's 'The Stout Miss Hopkins' Bicycle' (1911)," Sydney Keehner, Northern Illinois University

Session 17-I Policed Bodies and Minds in American Literature (Madison)

Chair Richard Kopley, Penn State DuBois

1. "Profit Made Flesh": *Drapetomania* and the Medicalized Enslaved Body in Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*," Raquel Kennon, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2. "Sacred Soundings: Vocal Resonance in 'The Man Who Thought Himself a Woman,'" Rebeccah Bechtold, Wichita State University
3. "Sexual Transgressions, AIDS, and Alterity: The Queer Body as Threat, and the Queer Body as Safety, in Gil Cuadros' 'Indulgences' and 'Chivalry,'" Subraj Singh, University of Missouri
4. "'An Irresistible and Uncontrollable Impulse': The Legal Context for Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Imp of the Perverse,'" Rene H. Treviño, California State University, Long Beach

Session 17-J Refiguring and Relocating the Harlem Renaissance (Marshfield)
Organized by Emily Lutenski, Appalachian State University

Chair: Jack Chelgren, University of Chicago

1. "The 'Greater Mexican' Harlem Renaissance," Emily Lutenski, Appalachian State University
2. "Refiguring the 'New Negro' in the New Harlem Renaissance," Martha Patterson, McKendree University
3. "'De Mule' in the Room: Hurston, Adultification, and African American Women's Literary Traditions," Cindy N. Reed, Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville

Session 17-N: Business Meeting: Carson McCullers Society (Salon 9)

Session 17-O Poetics and Pedagogy: A Roundtable on Teaching American Poetry Now (Wabash)
Organized by The Society for the Study of American Poetry

Chair: Nikki Skillman, Indiana University

1. Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University
2. Robert Von Hallberg, Claremont McKenna College
3. Keith D. Leonard, American University
4. Anne Lovering Rounds, Hostos Community College (CUNY)
5. Oliver Scheiding, University of Mainz
6. Scout Turkel, University of Chicago

Saturday, May 23, 2026
11:30 am – 12:50 pm

Session 18-A Ernest Hemingway's Writing: 1926–1927 (Indiana)
Organized by the Ernest Hemingway Society

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

1. "Performing Masculinity in Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*," Milena Vargas, Lincoln University of Pennsylvania
2. "Woman as Matador: Female Rage and Traumatic Repetition in Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*," Zeynep Toklu, Lehigh University

Session 18-B Whitman Studies on the 30th Anniversary of Betsy Erkkila and Jay Grossman's *Breaking Bounds: Whitman and American Cultural Studies* (Kimball)
Organized by the Whitman Studies Association

Chair: Edward Whitley, Lehigh University

1. Ed Folsom, University of Iowa
2. Meredith L. McGill, Rutgers University
3. Don James McLaughlin, University of Tulsa
4. Chelsea Miya, University of Guelph
5. Ivy Wilson, Northwestern University

Respondent: Jay Grossman, Northwestern University

Session 18-C Teaching In Difficult Times, Part 2 (Logan)
Organized by the Margaret Fuller Society

Chair: Eagan Dean, The College of Wooster

1. "Teaching Margaret Fuller in the Global Difficult Times," Jeeah Ham, University of Texas at Dallas
2. "Teaching the Parental Rights Movement in the Literature Classroom," Claire E. Lenviel, Columbia College
3. "Revolutionary Medicine: How American Women Writers Help Us to Teach, Protest, and Plan While Ill," Stephanie Peebles Tavera, Texas A&M University

Session 18-D Teaching with Humor (Salon 1)
Organized by the American Humor Studies Association

Chair: Howard Leib, Cornell Law School

1. "Nevertheless, Solipsism: On Pedagogy, Humor and Access to Language," Kara Baumann, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
2. "Humor as Free Speech: Breaking Through Internalized Silence in a Stand-Up Comedy Classroom," Josiah Beharry and Eileen Kogl Camfield, University of California, Merced
3. "Cringe in the Classroom: Teaching with Unironic Joy," Nich Krause, Auburn University

Session 18-E Contemporary Consumerism and Consumption: Embodied Consumption (Salon 2)
Organized by the Postwar/Contemporary Literature Group

Chair: Nicole Dib, Southern Utah University

1. "'A Common Appetite': Consuming Institutions in Julia May Jonas's *Vladimir*," Deborah Thurman, Marshall University
2. "Functional Friction: Resisting the Commodification of Resistance in Feminist Zines," Agatha Beins, Texas Woman's University

Session 18-F The Complexities of Abolition in American Literature (Salon 7)

Chair: Sherry Johnson, Grand Valley State University

1. "Editors, Antimodernism, and New Orleans Afro-Creole Print Culture," Derek Wood, Xavier University of Louisiana
2. "Abolitionism and Regional Apologetics in *The Western Messenger*, 1835-1841," Amanda Louise Johnson, Pitzer College
3. "Singing in the Dark: Voice and the Gaze in Lydia Maria Child's *A Romance of the Republic*," Lori Robison, University of North Dakota
4. "Title, Prophecy, Floriography, and Julia C. Collins's *The Curse of Caste; or The Slave Bride*," Lucy Grace Salib, University of Texas at Austin

Session 18-G Performance and Possibility in American Drama (Salon 12)

Chair: Savannah Barrow, Georgia Southern University

1. "A Collective Confrontation on Stage: Affect in Circulation," Tuba Baykara, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2. "Art Follows Reality: Bertolt Brecht and Audience Participation in *The Colored Museum*, *American Moor*, and *An Octoroon*," Kira Compton, University of Southern Mississippi
3. "'The Wind has blown them away': Coastal Spaces and the Politics of Erotic Possibility in Tennessee Williams's *The Rose Tatoo*," Jacob Fennell, University of Mississippi
4. "Reimagining Mexican Modernity in Josefina Niggli's *The Singing Valley*," Alan Burnett Valverde, Stanford University

Session 18-I Ideas in Modern American Literature: A Roundtable (Madison)
Organized by the Jonathan Bayliss Society and the Charles Olson Society

Chair: Jeffrey Gardiner, Independent Scholar

1. "Education as Resistance to ICE and the Developing/Regressing U.S. Carceral State: An Analysis of Counterhegemonic Literary Production in Contemporary African American Fiction," Dylan Bui, University of Central Florida
2. "Signifyin(g) & Storytellin(g) against Archival Silences: Mapping an Afro-American Cultural and Historiographical Literary Tradition," Kayla Cayasso, University of Missouri
3. "Aftereffects: Norman Rush, Realism, and the Idea of Socialism," Peter Jam Conroy, Tsinghua University
4. "*The Chiasma:* Charles Olson's Lectures on the New Sciences of Man," Jeffrey Gardiner, Independent Scholar
5. "'The body that knew the world': Creation as Relation in the Contemporary American Speculative Novel," Weston Leo Richey, University of Texas at Austin

Session 18-J New Studies in Fiction of the Harlem Renaissance: A Roundtable (Wabash)

Organized by Martha H. Patterson, McKendree University

Chair: Martha H. Patterson, McKendree University

1. "Revolutions Real and Imagined: The Transatlantic Radicalism of Dorothy West, W.E.B. Du Bois,Claude McKay, and Eric Walrond," Marc Blanc, Saint Xavier University
2. "The New Negro Woman and the Sex-Race Marketplace: Marita Bonner, Jessie Fauset, Nella Larsen, and Dorothy West," Eve Dunbar, Rice University
3. "Claude McKay and the Revolutionary New Negro," Gary Holcomb, Ohio University
4. "The New Negro in Revolt," Martha H. Patterson, McKendree University

Saturday, May 23, 2026
1:00-2:20 pm

Session 19-A Jack London: The Slammer, Bodily Horrors, and the Anti-Nazi Underground (Indiana)
Organized by the Jack London Society

Chair: Kenneth K. Brandt, Savannah College of Art and Design

1. "*John Barleycorn* and the Beginning of Jack London's Prison Novels," Jay Williams, General Editor, Oxford Complete Works of Jack London
2. "Minds of Winter: Arctic psycho-horror/thriller and London's Klondike Stories," Patti Luedecke, University of Toronto
3. "Enemy Of The Reich: The Tragedy Behind The German Publication Of *Sailor On Horseback*," Thomas Harakal, Independent Scholar

Session 19-B Genre Today: A Roundtable (Kimball)
Organized by The Circle for the Study of American Speculative Fiction

Chair: Gerry Canavan, Marquette University

1. Katherine Buse, University of Chicago
2. Patrick Jagoda, University of Chicago
3. Steven Shaviro, Wayne State University
4. Rebekah Sheldon, Indiana University Bloomington

Session 19-C Experiments in Asian American Visual Culture (Logan)
Organized by the Circle for Asian American Literary Studies

Chair: Timothy K. August, Stony Brook University

1. "Asian/Animal Women and Multispecies Care in Marjorie Liu and Sana Tanaka's *Monstress*," Jennifer Cho, University of Maryland

2. "Affect in *Minari*: Emotional and Precarious Lives Under Racialized Capitalism," Young Kim, Penn State University
3. "Materializing Subjectivity: Reframing Oceanic Recovery within the Vietnamese Refugee Narrative," Mei Flory, University of California, Santa Barbara

Session 19-D "Funny Ha Ha?": Audience/Reader Reception and Authorial Intent (Salon 1)
Organized by the American Humor Studies Association

Chair: Rodney Taylor, Ball State University

1. "Can Deepfakes be Funny? Satire, Power, and Resistance in African Deepfakes," Ibukun Filani, University of Massachusetts Amherst
2. "Laughing with Police is Laughing Against Police," Joseph George, North Carolina A&T State University
3. "What's So Funny? Epistemic Secession and the Problem of Humour," Ken Paradis, Wilfrid Laurier University
4. "The Unseen and Unaccountable Joker: Authoritarianism and Populist Humor in *Moby-Dick*," Hannah Stowe, Indiana University, South Bend

Session 19-E Contemporary Consumerism and Consumption: Mediated Consumption (Salon 2)
Organized by the Postwar/Contemporary Literature Group

Chair: Jacqueline Foertsch, University of North Texas

1. "'We never touched what belonged to the others': On material and familial preservation in Shirley Jackson's *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*," AnnMarie DeMichiel, Sacred Heart University
2. "From Proulx to the Property Brothers: Consuming the West in Contemporary American Culture," Tony R. Magagna, Millikin University
3. "MFA, NYC, SLAC, NCAA?: Allegories of Production and Consumption in Chad Harbach's *The Art of Fielding*," Brian Jansen, University of Maine

Session 19-F The Allen Ginsberg Centenary I: Fra Angelico, William Blake, Edgar Allan Poe, & Iain Sinclair (Salon 7)
Organized by the Beat Studies Association

Chair: Kurt Hemmer, Harper College

1. "Allen Ginsberg and Beato Angelico's Gold Blast of Light," Stevan Weine, University of Illinois at Chicago
2. "The Eye Altering Alters All: Allen Ginsberg's Responses to William Blake," Camila Oliveira Querino, Lisbon Center for English Studies
3. "Halo and Pulse in 'Edgar Allen Ginsberg's' Phosphorescent Poetry," Margarida Vale de Gato, University of Lisbon

4. “Iain Sinclair’s Ginsberg Orbital,” Jack Ryan, Gettysburg College

Session 19-G Hawthorne’s Afterlives: Adaptation, Revision, Influence: A Roundtable (Salon 12)
Organized by the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society

Chair: Charles Baraw, Southern Connecticut State University

1. “How *The Scarlet Letter* Suffused the Most Sensational Courtroom Trial of the Century,” John Gatta, University of the South
2. **“**Hawthorne and James: Imaginative Collaboration,” David Greven, University of South Carolina
3. “Hawthorne’s Afterlife with Willa Cather,” Amy Oatis, University of the Ozarks
4. “Dirge to Pulpit: Preaching Women After Hawthorne,” Ariel Silver, Southern Virginia University

Session 19-I Saul Bellow’s Chicago Adventures (Madison)
Organized by the Saul Bellow Society

Chair: William M. Etter, Irvine Valley College

1. “Ulysses in Chicago: Urban Perambulations in Bellow’s Short Stories,” Jacob Wilkenfeld, Northwestern University
2. “Associate with the Noblest People You Can Find and Read the Best Books: Saul Bellow and the Committee on Social Thought,” Miriam Shah, University of Chicago

Session 19-K New Perspectives on Harriet Jacobs’s *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (Salon 5)

Chair: Christina Bucher, Berry College

1. “Liberating Language: Minding the Gap in Harriet Jacobs’s *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*,” Andrea Frankwitz, Gordon College
2. “Mapping Silence and Speech in the “Contents’ of Jacobs’s *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*,” Bella Fiorucci, Loyola University Chicago

Session 19-L Anthologizing the American Short Story: A Conversation with John Stauffer, Editor of the Library of America's *The American Short Story: The Nineteenth Century* (Salon 6)
Organized by the Society for the Study of the American Short Story
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Chair: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University

John Stauffer, Harvard University
Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University

Session 19-M Three Generations of Queer Critique (Salon 8)

Chair: DeAnna Daniels, University of Arizona

1. "The Chronotope of the Passing Power in Djuna Barnes's *Nightwood*," Ferdâ Asya, Independent Scholar, USA
2. "Lorraine Hansberry's Queer Modernist Fiction," Erika Williams, University of Connecticut
3. "'When was the last time a straight man said something more interesting than what you were already thinking?': Heteropessimism in Luster (2020) by Raven Leilani and *Cleopatra and Frankenstein* (2022)," Maria Anna Łusakowska, University of Warsaw

Saturday, May 23, 2026
2:30– 3:50 pm

Session 20-A Sherwood Anderson at 150: Critical Approaches (Indiana)
Organized by the Sherwood Anderson Society

Chair: Sara Kosiba, Northeast Ohio Medical University

1. "*Marching Men*: Sherwood Anderson and the Question of Fascism," Jesse Raber, *Harvard Extension School*
2. "Sherwood Anderson's *Dark Laughter:* Whiteness and Popular Modernism," J. Gregory Brister, Valley City State University
3. "The Show Is Really Very Tough: Anderson on Hemingway, Hemingway on Anderson", Ross Tangedal, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
4. "Ethos and Biography in Sherwood Anderson's *Marching Men,"* Doug Sheldon, University of Illinois Chicago

Session 20-B Emily Dickinson in an Age of Revolution 2 (Kimball)
Organized by The Emily Dickinson International Society (EDIS)

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

1. "Dickinsons and Circuses," David Carlyon, Independent Scholar
2. "Flood Subjects: Dickinson, Hitchcock, and the Deluge," Beverley Catlett Bolen, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
3. "The Representative I: George Eliot, Emily Dickinson, and Psychological Realism," Emily Seelbinder, Queens University of Charlotte

Session 20-C *Racial Beings: Experiments in Asian American New Materialisms* - A Book Talk with Michelle Nancy Huang (Logan)
Organized by the Circle for Asian American Literary Studies

Author: Michelle Nancy Huang, Northwestern University

Interviewer: Akash Belsare, University of Illinois-Springfield

Session 20-D Rethinking Business in American Literature (Salon 1)

Chair: Amanda Louise Johnson, Pitzer College

1. "The Time of Finance: Tom Wolfe's *The Bonfire of the Vanities*," Jeff Clymer, University of Kentucky
2. "Modernism, Sex, and Censorship: Revisiting the 'Fig Leaf Edition' of Upton Sinclair's *Oil!*," Aaron Montalvo, Georgia Institute of Technology
3. "'A Mobius-like contortion': Power, Mass=Production, and Cliché in Hernan Diaz's *Trust*," Aurora Farmer, Independent Scholar

Session 20-E Elizabeth Bishop's Fluid Correspondences (Salon 2)
Organized by the Elizabeth Bishop Society

Chair: Neil Besner, University of Winnipeg

1. "Elizabeth Bishop's Brazilian Waters: Going with the Flow in Questions of Travel," Adriana Jordão, Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro
2. "Alive and Moving: A Closer Look at Baumann, Barker and Bowie." David Hoak, Independent Scholar, California
3. "'Distorted and Revealed': Bishop, Hecht, and the Art of Aubade," Yuqi Li, Trinity College Dublin

Session 20-F The Allen Ginsberg Centenary II: Jack Kerouac & William S. Burroughs (Salon 7)
Organized by the Beat Studies Association

Chair: Don Heneghan, Independent Scholar

1. "Ginsberg, Kerouac, & 'Howl,'" Kurt Hemmer, Harper College
2. "'Why can't I write another Howl?': Allen Ginsberg's Legacy at 100," Tony Trigilio, Columbia College Chicago
3. "Visceral Rejection and the Overlapping Embodied Philosophies of William S. Burroughs and Allen Ginsberg," Robert W. Jones II, Louisiana State University, Eunice
4. "Travel, Transcendence, and Missed Opportunity: Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac in Africa," Erik Mortenson, Lake Michigan College

Session 20-G Hawthorne's Digital Age Afterlives (Salon 12)
Organized by the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society

Chair: Charles Baraw, Southern Connecticut State University

1. "Video Game Gothic: Hawthorne and *The Vanishing of Ethan Carter*," Ryan Schneider, Purdue University
2. "Hawthorne and *Elder Scrolls Online*," McKenzie Johnston, Saint Louis University
3. "From A to X: Hawthorne's Afterlives in Ti West's Horror Trilogy," Naoyuki Nozaki, Tokyo University of Pharmacy and Life Sciences

Session 20-J Roundtable on Richard Wright's Politics: Gender, Genre, and Migration (Marshfield)
Organized by the Richard Wright Society

Chair: Joseph G. Ramsey, University of Massachusetts Boston

1. "'Censored, Mediated, Packaged': Richard Wright's Knotty Emergence in the Literary Mainstream," Lydia Burleson, Stanford University
2. "Richard Wright and the Fear of Women," Richard Hancuff, Misericordia University
3. "Gendered Migrations: Richard Wright's *Black Boy* and Saidiya Hartman's *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments*," Noreen O'Connor, King's College, Pennsylvania
4. "Wright's Critique of Political Passion: Revisiting Sue's Subjectivity in 'Bright and Morning Star,'"Joseph G. Ramsey, University of Massachusetts Boston

Session 20-L Science Fiction and AI Roundtable (Salon 6)
Organized by the Circle for the Study of American Speculative Fiction

Chair: Hugh C. O'Connell, University of Massachusetts Boston

1. Gerry Canavan, Marquette University
2. David Shipko, Johns Hopkins University
3. Patrick Jagoda, University of Chicago

Session 20-N Business Meeting: Jack London Society (Salon 9)

Saturday, May 23, 2026
4:00 – 5:20 pm

Session 21-A: Sherwood Anderson at 150: Teaching Approaches: A Roundtable (Indiana)
Organized by the Sherwood Anderson Society

Chair: Sara Kosiba, Northeast Ohio Medical University

1. "*Multimodal Winesburg: Text, Recording, and Video*" Doug Sheldon, University of Illinois Chicago
2. "Teaching Beyond *Winesburg:* 'The Man Who Became a Woman' and Critical Theory," J. Gregory Brister, Valley City State University

3. “You Know This Town: Teaching Anderson's Grotesques to Rural Undergraduates”, Carla Barger, University of Illinois Chicago

Session 21-B Transgressive Voices and Female Desire in Kate Chopin and her Contemporaries (Kimball)
Organized by the Kate Chopin International Society

Chair: Stacy Stingle, Louisiana State University

1. "Transgressing Boundaries: Kate Chopin, Joseph Pulitzer, and the Free Radical Press of Nineteenth-Century St. Louis," Heidi Podlasli-Labrenz, University of Bremen
2. "Fashioning the Flâneuse: Kate Chopin and Virginia Woolf," Quinn Moyer, Duquesne University
3. “Social Reproduction Theory, Whiteness, and the Limits of Feminist Critique,” Anika Jensen, Davidson College
4. “The Velvet Glove and the Steel Claw: Teaching Kate Chopin’s ‘La Belle Zoraïde,’” Anna Elfenbein, West Virginia University

Session 21-C The Revolution Will Not Be Televised: Black Humor and Revolutionary/Reactionary Suicide (Logan)

Chair: Justin Smith, Randolph-Macon College

1. “When Black Humor was an Executive Decision: Select Cartoons by Charles Johnson Circa 1970,” James Peterson, Delaware State University
2. “’To Live and Die for the People’: Huey P. Newton’s Revolutionary Suicide as Black Martydom and the Black Panther Party Afterlives,” Holly Burgess, Marquette University
3. “Vulnerability and Alienation: Tank’s Reactionary Suicide in *Uptight* (1968),” Chante Mouton Kinyon, University of Notre Dame

Session 21-D Gothic Intersections: Blackness and Indigenity as Themes in American Literature (Salon 1)
Organized by the Society for the Study of the American Gothic

Chair: DeAnna Daniels, University of Arizona

1. “Beyond Bondage and 124: *Skinship* in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*,” Margret Lobo, Western Washington University
2. “The Deer Woman: An Embodied Afro-Indigenous Sign of Survivance,” Amelia Ali, Emory University
3. “Troubling the Ties that Bind: Gothic Incest and Metaphors of Race in Pauline Hopkins’s *Of One Blood*,” Angelique Bassard, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
4. “Haunt Back: Black Women Practicing Freedom through Paranormal Kinships,” Patrick Harris, Michigan State University

Session 21-E *Elizabeth Bishop: From Brazil with Love*. A screening of Vivian Ostrovsky's New Documentary Film (Salon 2)
Organized by the Elizabeth Bishop Society

Elizabeth Bishop: From Brazil with Love, Produced and Directed by Vivian Ostrovsky, Independent Film Director
Followed by Question & Answer Session with David Hoak, Neil Besner & Vivian Ostrovsky

Session 21-F The Allen Ginsberg Centenary III: Past, Present, & Future (Salon 7)
Organized by the Beat Studies Association

Chair: Kurt Hemmer, Harper College

1. "After Ginsberg: What Has Happened to Allen Ginsberg's Legacy in the Advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI)?", Daria Goncharova, Davis & Elkins College
2. "'No! No! It's Not the End': The Past, Present, and Future of Allen Ginsberg's Legacy," Brett Sigurdson, Independent Scholar
3. "Learning Buddhism with Allen Ginsberg," Marc Olmsted, Independent Scholar

Session 21-G H.D. Across Worlds: Textual, Psychological, and Archaeological Landscapes in Classical Reimaginations (Salon 12)
Organized by the H.D. International Society

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

1. "Compiling and Publishing *The H.D. Anthology*: Palpable Realities and Mnemonic Intertextualities," Anna Fyta, Independent Scholar
2. "'What are the islands to me?' Reframing H.D.'s Engagement with Hellenic Landscapes," Bryonie A. Carter, St. Charles Community College
3. "Psychoanalysis and the Ancient Body: H.D.'s Hellenism as Therapeutic Reimagining," Samantha Lepak, Loyola University Chicago

Session 21-I Irish Writers Transatlantic Impact. From James Joyce to Alice McDermott (Madison)
Organized by Irish American Writers and Artists

Chair: Lori Cassels, Independent Scholar

1. "The Transatlantic Irish: from James Joyce to Colm Tóibín and from Elizabeth Cullinan to Alice McDermott," Aušra Paulauskienė, LCC International University, Lithuania
2. "New York's James Joyce: Multiculturalism and the Irish Cultural Diaspora," Jonathan Ezra Goldman, New York Institute of Technology

Session 21-K: Wallace Stevens and Fiction (Salon 5)

Organized by The Wallace Stevens Society

Chairs: Nora Pehrson, Johns Hopkins University, and Zach Tavlin, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

1. "Traveller in a Homemade World: Wallace Stevens's Souvenirs," Sam Walker, Carroll College
2. "The 'Truth' of Stevens's Epiphanies," Abigail Rogers, Duke University,
3. "Dark Things and the Lyric Now: Narrative Configuration in An Ordinary Evening in New Haven," Jill Keegan, University of Notre Dame

Saturday, May 23, 2026
5:20 – 6:15 pm

Session 22-A: Business Meeting: Society for the Study of American Literary Naturalism (Indiana)

Session 22-B: Business Meeting: Society for the Study of American Poetry (Kimball)

Session 22-C: Business Meeting: African American Literature and Culture Society (Logan)

Session 22-D: Business Meeting: Margaret Fuller Society (Salon 1)

Session 22-E: Business Meeting: Whitman Studies Association (Salon 2)

Session 22-F: Business Meeting: Sherwood Anderson Society (Salon 7)

Session 22-G: Business Meeting: Kate Chopin International Society (Salon 12)

Session 22-H: Business Meeting: American Humor Studies Association (Salon 4)

Session 22-I: Business Meeting: Beat Studies Association (Madison)

Session 22-J: Organizing Meeting: Circle for the Study of American Speculative Fiction (Marshfield)

Session 22-K: Business Meeting: Nathaniel Hawthorne Society (Salon 5)

Session 22-L: Business Meeting: Harriet Beecher Stowe Society (Salon 6)

Session 22-M: Business Meeting: Wallace Stevens Society (Salon 8)

6:00 pm – 7:15 pm
(Crystal Room)
Closing Reception

All conference attendees are invited to the closing reception.