

Call for Papers

Elizabeth Bishop Society Panel

Elizabeth Bishop and Global Poetics: Geographies, Exchanges, and Afterlives

From her early engagements with cartography in “The Map” to her nearly two decades living, writing, and translating in Brazil, Elizabeth Bishop’s work continuously interrogated the politics of place, translation, and transnational movement. The poet’s immersion in South American life did not simply provide new subject matter; it fundamentally reoriented the deep structures, rhythms, class politics, and historical consciousness of her mature poetry.

Building on spatial theory and Inter-American literary studies, this panel seeks papers that examine Bishop within global, hemispheric, and cross-cultural frameworks. We invite archival, theoretical, or reception-based approaches that explore her engagement with global issues, her work as a cultural translator, or her ongoing legacy among contemporary international writers.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- **Hemispheric & Lusophone Exchanges:** Re-evaluating her Brazilian translations, her engagements with modernists like Carlos Drummond de Andrade, Manuel Bandeira, and João Cabral de Melo Neto, and the “foreign-domestic” dynamics of her time in Petrópolis and Rio de Janeiro.
- **Geopoetics & Critical Spatiality:** Readings that engage cartography, spatial theory, place-making, and critical geography across her global itineraries.
- **Ethics of Observation & Cold War Geopolitics:** Examining her travel writings, archival materials, and poetry through postcolonial, class-conscious, and geopolitical lenses.
- **Global Influence & Afterlives:** How contemporary poets in Latin America, Lusophone Africa, Europe, or Asia engage with, rewrite, or critique Bishop’s poetic legacy.
- **Ecopoetics & Planetary Networks:** Human and non-human agency, extraction, local topographies, and environmental humanities in her tropical and travel verse.

Submission Guidelines:

Please send a 250–300 word abstract and a brief bio to Bethany Hicok at bfh1@williams.edu by December 15, 2026. Please note any AV requirements with your submission.