

Poe's Heresy of the Didactic

In "The Poetic Principle," Poe discusses "the heresy of *The Didactic*." His contemporaries, he explains, have made a radical error in believing that "the ultimate object of all Poetry is Truth" and that "every poem should inculcate a moral." Trying to course correct, he implores us to see that nothing is "more thoroughly dignified—more supremely noble than . . . the poem written solely for the poem's sake." The "heresy of *The Didactic*," first explicitly identified in this posthumous publication but in line with critical writings throughout his career, has impacted the way generations of critics and artists have read and interpreted Poe's works.

The PSA will sponsor a panel titled **Poe's Heresy of the Didactic** at the upcoming American Literature Association Conference in Boston (May 26-29, 2027). We seek proposals that consider how the "heresy of *The Didactic*" influences the way we read, interpret, and consider the legacy of Poe today. Is the concept still central to our understanding of Poe's work? Has its importance been overdetermined? How does this aesthetic prioritization affect our interpretation of his works' engagement with the turbulent antebellum age? Each panelist can focus on one or more texts by Poe.

To submit a proposal, please send a title, an abstract (max. 250 words), and a brief bio (max. 150 words) to Caleb Doan at caleb.doan@fmarion.edu. Please use "PSA ALA Panel 2027" for the subject line. This panel is "in-person" only. The deadline for submissions is January 10, 2027. Panelists will be notified by January 15, 2027.

Bridging Countries, Genres, Periods, and Technologies in the Classroom with Poe

Poe continues to be one of the most adapted, anthologized, theorized, and translated American authors. Comics, graphic and more traditional print novels, essays, films, plays, tv shows, and video games recreate Poe in myriad guises and (to use one of his phrases) "novel combinations." Poe once wrote that "so long as the universe of thought shall furnish matter for novel combinations, so long will the spirit of true genius be original, be exhaustless—be itself." For numerous twenty-first-century artists and authors working around the world, Poe and his oeuvre have become that "matter," raw material to be reimaged and recreated in novel ways.

Contemporary recreations of Poe have provided scholars with an international archive to study, but they also provide educators with exciting opportunities to bridge classroom discussions of Poe (and American literature) to questions of national/world literature, genres, time periods, and media and print technologies. The PSA will sponsor a panel titled **Poe and—Bridging Countries, Genres, Periods and Technologies in the Classroom** at the upcoming American Literature Association Conference in Boston (May 26-29, 2027). We seek proposals that consider the importance of these "bridges," and the ways in which they enable new, diverse, and student-focused approaches to teaching Poe today. Ideally, panelists will combine discussions of Poe with adaptations of his work and their own teaching experiences.

To submit a proposal, please send a title, an abstract (max. 250 words), and a brief bio (max. 150 words) to Micah Donohue at micah.donohue@enmu.edu. Please use “PSA ALA Panel 2027” for the subject line. This panel is “in-person” only. The deadline for submissions is January 10, 2027. Panelists will be notified by January 15, 2027.