

The Kate Chopin International Society is seeking individual proposals for two sponsored panels at the 2027 American Literature Association conference in Boston, Massachusetts, May 26–29, 2027

The first panel, a roundtable on “Teaching Kate Chopin,” seeks short (seven- to eight-minute) papers/remarks that address any aspect of or strategy for teaching Chopin’s life or work to today’s students—to students of any kind at any level using any materials or technology in any educational environment anywhere. Proposals should include a title, your name and affiliation, and a paragraph about your proposed remarks. Roundtable chaired by Heather Ostman.

The second panel, “Kate Chopin and the Southern Gothic” invites explorations of liminality and the Southern Gothic in Chopin’s work.

Throughout Chopin’s fiction, we encounter transgression, isolation, violence, death, buried histories, and moments of the strange and uncanny. Her characters frequently confront thresholds between freedom and confinement, belonging and exclusion, past and present, self and other, and life and death. Such moments of liminality invite new consideration of Chopin’s relationship to Gothic and Southern Gothic traditions.

This panel invites papers examining manifestations of the Gothic in Chopin’s work, including liminality and thresholds, the uncanny, haunting and memory, death and mourning, Gothic spaces and landscapes, and supernatural or ghostly elements where they occur. Papers might also consider race, gender and sexuality, madness, repression, the return of the past, or Chopin’s relationship to later Southern Gothic writers.

How might Gothic approaches open new ways of reading familiar works such as *The Awakening* and “Désirée’s Baby”? What might lesser-studied works reveal about Chopin’s engagement with the Gothic? And how might reading Chopin alongside later Southern Gothic writers alter our understanding of the Southern Gothic tradition itself? Papers addressing any of Chopin’s fiction are welcome, as are comparative, interdisciplinary, and theoretical approaches.

Proposals for presentations no longer than twenty minutes should include a title, your name and affiliation, and a 200- to 400-word abstract. Panel chaired by Stacy Stingle.

Send submissions for both the Teaching Roundtable and the “Kate Chopin and the Southern Gothic” panel by **Friday, January 22, 2027**, to both Stacy Stingle at stacy.stingle@gmail.com and Heather Ostman at heather.ostman@gmail.com