

The James Fenimore Cooper Society will host two panels at the 38th Annual Conference of the American Literature Association, to be held at The Westin Copley Square, Boston, May 26-29, 2027. For additional information, visit: <https://americanliteratureassociation.org/ala-conferences/ala-annual-conference/>

Panel 1: Land and Sea: A bicentennial celebration of *The Prairie* and *The Red Rover*

Commemorating the 200-year anniversary of James Fenimore Cooper's third Leather-stocking novel, *The Prairie* (1827) and his swashbuckling sea novel, *The Red Rover* (1827), and their enduring legacy across media and culture, the JFC Society invites proposals that explore topics related to Cooper's popular novels and/or their influence and legacy. We particularly (but not exclusively) welcome proposals that focus on *The Prairie* or *The Red Rover*; novels that feature two iconic figures both in Cooper's oeuvre and American Literature, however proposals that explore the Leather-stocking or sea novels individually or in series, their influence, adaptations, place in the national imaginary, and/or other related concerns or themes are welcomed.

Chair: TBA

Panel 2: Open Topic: James Fenimore Cooper, an American Novelist and Innovator

The James Fenimore Cooper Society invites proposals for papers that explores James Fenimore Cooper as a novelist of popular narratives, whose interests and innovations to the novel in terms of form and content achieved both national and international literary and commercial success as well as leave an indelible mark on writing across a broad spectrum of literary, cultural, and historical perspectives. This is an open topic panel – all proposals are welcomed.

Chair: TBA

Tentative: Roundtable: "The 1820s: The American Naissance"

The James Fenimore Cooper Society invites participants to join us for a series of short and informal talks leading to an open conversation focused on the literary world of 1820s, which marked a pivotal year in the early national publication of the "first generation" writers: Cooper, Irving, Sedgwick, Child, and Bryant, among others. The roundtable discussion will seek to spark a lively conversation among scholars across fellow ALA member societies, focusing on this moment of America writings' first "naissance."

Moderator: Luis A. Iglesias, University of Southern Mississippi

Papers should be a maximum of 15-20 minutes (6-8 pages) in length. Brief discussion will follow the presentations. Presenters need not be members of the James Fenimore Cooper Society, though we certainly hope they will choose to join. Please note that per ALA guidelines, no one may present more than one paper at the conference.

Please submit a 250-word abstract and a brief cv (2-3 pages) to Luis A. Iglesias (luis.iglesias@usm.edu) by January 24, 2027. Please indicate whether the paper may be published in the *James Fenimore Cooper Society Journal*. Also, in your proposal indicate any audio-visual requirements or needs. All proposals should be both pasted into the text of the email and included as attachments (word files or pdfs preferred). For additional information, please visit the James Fenimore Cooper Society webpage for resources and visual archives as well as the membership application:

(<https://jfccoopersociety.org/>)

Papers presented at the conference will, with their authors' permission, be published in the *James Fenimore Cooper Society Journal* and made available online at the Cooper Society website. Papers may be mildly revised later for publication.

Contact Information

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