

27th Annual Conference of the English and American Literature Association

Theme: Restlessness

Conference organizers: English and American Literature Association of the Republic of China (EALA, Taiwan) & National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan

Date: November 2, 2019

Venue: National Chung Cheng University, Chiayi, Taiwan

Call for Papers

“Restlessness” refers to the state of impending agitation among individuals, institutions, and societies, which stems from increasing anxiety. It problematizes consideration of the status quo, allowing individuals to deviate from norms to fight vociferously against mainstream values through a heteroglossia that can vent their suppressed emotions. Restlessness may be an indication of individual paranoia, a manifestation of indoctrinated fanaticism, or the dissatisfaction of individuals and larger groups with their current social milieu. Restlessness may bring forth intricate, rapid, and extensive changes in turbulent situations. It can provide a fertile ground for the flourishing of multiple discourses on literature, psychology, and ethics amongst contending schools. From the perspective of literary history, the shift of literary trends in different periods in anticipation of innovative writing styles can also be taken as a representation of restlessness.

There are many examples of restlessness in English literature, such as the uneasy mental state of women in the writing of Margery Kempe, Faustus and Macbeth’s transgressive desires, Gulliver and Crusoe’s restive adventures, Bertha Mason’s madness, and the sense of modern men’s anxiety in Joyce and Woolf’s works. All these forms of restlessness may disrupt the normal course of life or challenge political or religious authorities. Likewise, mainstream social and cultural thinking is also contested by restlessness demonstrated in American literature. The racial, religious, and social problems exposed by Huckleberry Finn’s restless spirit, the psychedelic experiments and alternative sexual orientations depicted by the Beat Generation, the revolt and activism displayed in ethnic literature, and the ideas of deterritorialization, affect, and emotional disorders presented in contemporary theory, are all features of restlessness that are indicative of our multicultural, interdisciplinary, and transnational world.

This conference invites scholars and literary enthusiasts to submit proposals for paper presentations on the theme of “restlessness” in English and American literature. With the theme of “restlessness,” this conference hopes to broaden the research scope of English and American literature and open up the potential for new directions. Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:

Restlessness and:

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| ➤ affection | ➤ bio-politics |
| ➤ resistance | ➤ ethnic politics |
| ➤ demonic possession | ➤ gender politics |
| ➤ medicine | ➤ sub/popular culture |
| ➤ materiality | ➤ other issues |

Individuals or panels of 3 to 4 people are welcome to submit abstracts, in Chinese or English. Please email abstracts and brief CVs to 2019eala@gmail.com by **January 15, 2019**. In the subject line of the email, please indicate “2019EALA Abstract.” Notifications of acceptance will be sent by **March 15, 2019**.

- **Submission content**

- First page: title, abstract (300 words maximum), keywords
- Second page: CV (including name, affiliation, job title, address, telephone, email)

- **Presentation types**

- Individual Papers: 20 minutes
- Mini Oral Sessions: This session has been added to accommodate more presentations and allow more discussion. 6 to 8 presenters will each have approximately 6 minutes to present their project using a maximum of 5 PowerPoint slides. After all presentations are finished, the moderator will open the floor for discussion and questions.

For abstracts that are accepted as individual paper presentations (not mini-oral), full papers should be submitted by September 15, 2019. After the conference, you are highly encouraged to revise your paper and submit it to *Review of English and American Literature*. **All presenters are required to have EALA membership.**

Important Dates

Abstract submission deadline: January 15, 2019

Abstract acceptance notification: March 15, 2019

Full paper submission deadline: September 15, 2019

Conference date: November 2, 2019



If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the conference organizing committee at 2019eala@gmail.com