

American Literary Geographies

Organizer: Jesyka Traynor, Queen's University

This panel seeks proposals related to representations of American geographies in 20th and 21st century American literature. In many texts, the function of American spaces, places, and landscapes often goes beyond the purposes of setting. Indeed, renderings of landscapes in American literature are political and offer a reflection of American society. Landscapes also stand in as character, influencing plot, tone, and theme. Proposals may consider how American literature of the 20th and 21st centuries represent, examine, and interact with American spaces and places. What do textual renderings of American geographies say about the United States as a place?

Relevant topics might include (but are not limited to):

- Ecocritical readings of American fiction/non-fiction
- Regionalist literature
- Representations of disaster
- Cartographies/cartographical processes
- Urban environments vs. rural environments
- Human interaction with nature
- Neighbourhoods
- Readings of memoirs/non-fiction that deal with region, space, and place
- Monuments and their creations/representations in American literature
- National parks
- Borderlands
- The policing of landscape
- The racialization of landscape
- "Back to nature" memoirs