

Reckoning with Representing COVID

Although it is still an ongoing event, the COVID-19 pandemic has already inspired a wide range of literary and cultural products as well as having an effect on how texts are produced, marketed, and consumed. From new subjects for poetry and graphic novels to new ways of presenting drama, literary forms and content have emerged that in some cases build on pre-COVID inequities and in others create new ones. In addition, the pandemic has changed--sometimes slowing and sometimes accelerating--modes of consumption and distribution for print, visual, and digital works.

The Literature Working Group seeks to put together a pre-constituted panel on this topic, and invites submissions for papers that deal with

- literary and media representations of the pandemic
- situating COVID in the literary tradition of “illness as metaphor”
- cultural studies, sociological, or other approaches to aesthetic products
- literary representations of the racial reckoning that occurred during the pandemic
- the body and COVID
- vax culture and the role of literary forms as mobilized by both sides--testimonials for vaccines and for anti-vax conspiracies
- publishing during the pandemic--financial reckonings, gains and losses, print and digital texts, book culture, the literary marketplace

Submissions Requirements:

Please submit a brief abstract of your paper and a short biography no later than December 19, 2021 to the panel co-chairs. Include contact information and any requests for audio-visual equipment, and please indicate whether you plan to attend the conference in person.

Panel Co-Chairs:

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