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## Disability in American Literature II

### Session Chair:

Rachel Tie, Claremont Graduate University

### Time:

Session 10: Sunday 10:45am-12:15pm

### Location:

RCC Meeting Room 2

### Topic Area:

Disability in American Literature [1]

### Presenters/Papers:

1. Freakish Bodies: Poe's "Hop-Frog" and the Spectacle of Difference and Disability

[2]

Amanda Kong, University of California, Davis

Critics have ignored the key element of disability in Edgar Allan Poe's "Hop-Frog," choosing instead to focus on representations of race and American economics. Reading the tale as a version of the American freak show, "Hop-Frog" operates as an interpellation of able-bodies even as it desires to overturn dominant ideology.

2. Ecosomatic Pathologies: Disability, Ethnicity and Deprivation of Human Capabilities in Meridel Le Sueur's "Women on the Breadlines?"

[3]

Lina Geriguis, Chapman University

This paper explores Le Sueur's "Women on the Breadlines" (1932) as a story about medical and social disabilities that result in social disintegration. The essay argues that in this reportage several narratives of pathology emerge, dissolving ethnicity, disability, gender and the deprivation of human capabilities into social categories that become synonymous and interdependent vehicles of abnormality.

3. Disruptive Bodies: Visibility, Embodiment, and Landscape in William Faulkner's *Go Down, Moses*

[4]

Jessica Cowing, The College of William and Mary

0. Labor and property in domestic and cultivated spaces that shapes family narratives is crucial to understanding the transformation of twentieth century southern landscapes in William Faulkner's *Go Down, Moses*. Invisible characters embody counternarratives and disrupt systems of patriarchal lineage, property inheritance, and interpretations of landscape in the early twentieth century.
4. ?Aint No Luck on No Place Where They Own Chillen?s Name Aint Never Spoke?: Mental, Physical, and Environmental Trauma in William Faulkner?s *The Sound and the Fury*

[5]

Shaun F. Richards, The College of William and Mary

This paper explores trauma?s gendered environing within the Compson family. The Compson estate is a decomposing ecosystem that finds dysfunctional embodiment in Benjy, for whom the ?natural? triggers haunting associations of Caddy and his castration. Through Benjy?s mental disability, masculine able-bodied subjectivity is re-conceptualized in physical, psychological, and ecological terms.

### **Session Cancelled:**

No

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