Elmira 2017: The Eighth International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies
August 3-5, 2017
Conference Schedule (V.1.2)

Please note that there may be some slight changes to the conference schedule as we approach August. The staff of CMTS will do its best to keep this document up-to-date as we prepare for your arrival. A full conference program with abstracts, locations, and other information will be provided in the following months.

Wednesday, August 2

9:00am - 9:00pm Registration

Thursday, August 3

8:00am - 5:00pm Registration
8:00am - 8:45am Full Breakfast
9:00am - 10:15am Session One

Mark Twain: Configuring Journeys (Chad Rohman, Panel Chair)

Paula Harrington, “The Innocents Abroad: From Travel Narrative to Proto-fiction”


Kotaro Nakagaki, “Mark Twain’s Tramp as a Cultural Icon of American Road Narratives”

Mark Twain and Native Americans (Bruce Michelson, Panel Chair)

John Lawlor, “Spinning Custer: A Pennsylvania Editor’s Appraisal of Little Big Horn”

David Leight, “The Show is Genuine’: Buffalo Bill Cody and Twain’s Native Americans”

Atsushi Sugimura, “I Killed Thirty-Eight Persons’: Sam Clemens and the Sioux Wars, 1862/1876”
10:15am - 10:25am Refreshments Available

10:30am - 11:45am Session Two

Representing Twain (Kerry Driscoll, Panel Chair)

John Bird, “Mark Twain’s Autobiography: The Metaphor of Invention, Encomium, and Invective”

Ben Click, “Rhetorical Listening, Silence, and Cultural Consustantiality in Adventures of Huckleberry Finn: Revisiting the Raftsmen’s Episode Again, Ugh!”

Christine Dixon, “This Way to the Egress”

Mark Twain and Pedagogy (Ann Ryan, Panel Chair)

Hugh H. Davis, “On Teaching Huck Finn: Reflections from the Secondary Classroom”

Tsuyoshi Ishihara, “Mark Twain in US School Textbooks, 1910s-1920s”

Afrin Zeenat, “Mark Twain’s Reassessment of Children’s Education in Adventures of Huckleberry Finn”

Twain and Television (Joseph Lemak, Panel Chair)

David Bianculli, “Mark Twain on Television”

John H. Davis, “Telephone, Television, Tell-a-Story: Mark Twain’s Use of Future Technology asPlot Device”

Kaine Ezell, “The Android and the Icon: Mark Twain on Star Trek: The Next Generation”

12:00pm - 12:50pm Lunch

1:00pm - 2:15pm Session Three

Mark Twain and the Art of Grief (Lawrence Howe, Panel Chair)

Hal Bush “Tennyson, Evolution, Pain & Parasites: Further Thoughts on the Continuing Bonds of Mark Twain”

Joseph Csicsila “Mark Twain’s First Season in Hell: The England Trip of 1872”

Nicole Amare and Alan Manning “Through the Veil of Unbelief: Twain’s Transformative Grief and Mormon Imagery”

“You don’t know about me”: Resolving Huck (Ben Griffin, Panel Chair)

Alan Gribben “Thinking Huck, Writing Tom (Canty)”

Kevin MacDonnell “Was Huck Quaker?”
Abraham Kupersmith “The Practical Joke and the Development of Empathy in Adventures of Huckleberry Finn”

2:15pm -2:25pm Refreshments Available

2:30pm - 3:45pm Session Four

Panel: The Mahogany Room: Restoring the Clemenses’ ‘Royal Chamber’
Participants: Tracy Brindle, Steve Courtney, and Mallory Howard

Mark Twain and His Audience (James Caron, Panel Chair)

Courtney Bates, “Turning from the Darkness: Twain’s Use of Fandoms to Address Reader Backlash on ‘To the Person Sitting in Darkness’”

Delwin Richey, “Assault on Laughter: Mark Twain Learning the Lecture Business, 1866-1868”

John Pascal, “Mark Twain and Talk: The Ore of Artemus Ward’s Assault of Laughter”

4:00pm - 5:15pm Session Five

The Innocents Abroad: A Virtual Tour by Kevin MacDonnell

Mark Twain and the Body (Harry Wonham, Panel Chair)

Takuya Kubo, “Men were still monstrosities. . .”: Mark Twain’s Views on Disabilities and Their Multifaceted Meanings”

Patrick Ober, “Mark Twain & The Society for the Suppression of Unnecessary Noise”

Robert E. Stewart, “Did He Walk?”

5:30pm - 6:30pm Happy Hour

6:45pm - 7:45pm Henry Nash Smith Award Dinner

8:00pm - 10:00pm Screening of “Band of Robbers”, followed by a Q & A with Aaron and Adam Nee

Friday, August 4

8:00am - 8:45am Full Breakfast

9:00am - 10:15am Session Six

(Inter)Textual Twain (Lawrence Howe, Panel Chair)

Dennis Eddings, “How Poe’s Devil Helped Corrupt Twain’s Hadleyburg”

Mark Dawidziak, “Mark Twain Meets Dracula”
Joseph Alvarez, “Dystopian Views of Heaven in Letters from the Earth and Captain Stormfield’s Visit to Heaven”

**Mark Twain: Race and Place** (James Caron, Panel Chair)

David Sloane, “Huck Finn in Cudjo’s Cave: J. T. Trowbridge and Mark Twain and the Public Discourse on Race”

Virginia Maresca, “The Colorless History of that Dull Country Town: Colorblind Racism Then and Now in Pudd’nhead Wilson”

Johanna Edge, “Satire as Subversion: Mark Twain and The Tragedy of Pudd’nhead Wilson, a Novel of Passing”

**Twain, Technology, and Industry** (Matthew Seybold, Panel Chair)

James Wharton Leonard, “‘This unsearched marvelous world’: Amateur Science in Mark Twain’s “Dream Tales”

Thomas Reigstad, “Mark Twain and the Coal Question”

Jennifer Lieberman, “Mark Twain and the Technological Fallacy”

10:15am - 10:25am Refreshments Available

10:30am - 11:45am Session Seven

**Joan of Arc** (Paula Harrington, Panel Chair)

Participants: Ronald Jenn, Delphine Louise, Linda Morris, and Geoffrey Williams

**Mark Twain: Paternity, Domesticity, and Memory** (Joseph Csicsila, Panel Chair)

Kerry Driscoll, “‘My love and patriarchal blessing’: Mark Twain and the Saturday Morning Club of Hartford”

James Golden, “The Public Home: Space and Literary Culture in Nook Farm”

Ann Ryan, “Haunted Houses: Twain, Hawthorne, and the American Gothic”

12:00pm - 12:50pm Lunch

1:00pm - 2:15pm Session Eight (Plenary Session)

“Work in Progress at the Mark Twain Project: San Francisco Correspondence 1865–1866”

by Benjamin Griffin

2:15pm - 2:25pm Refreshments Available
2:30pm - 3:45pm  

**Session Nine**  

**Twain, Vice, and Violence** (Henry Wonham, Panel Chair)  

Jarrod Roark, “Providence of the Pistol”  

Geoffrey Williams, “How Might Mark Twain Have Tried To Motivate Samuel Clemens to Stop Smoking? Musings of a Self-Determination Theory-Based Health Psychologist”  

Laura Skandera Trombley, “Mark Twain and Libation”  

**Mysterious Stranger** (Matthew Seybold, Panel Chair)  


Alejandro Omidsaler, “Empty Space and You: Cosmic Solipsism in *The Mysterious Stranger*”  

G.R. Thompson, “Twain’s Platypus: Modernism and Metafiction in *The Confidence-Man* and *The Mysterious Stranger*”  

4:00pm - 5:15pm  

**Session Ten**  

**Evolving (and Revolving) Issues in Twain Studies** (Joseph Csicsila, Panel Chair)  

Bruce Michelson, “Mark Twain in the Po-Mo Twilight”  

Greg Camfield, “Is Satire Compatible with Free Speech?”  

Donald Bliss, “Mark Twain and Politics - Then and Now”  

Adapting Twain’s Short Works for the Stage: David Carkeet and the Mark Twain Players  

5:30pm - 6:30pm  

Happy Hour  

6:30pm - 7:45pm  

Keynote Dinner  

8:00pm - 9:30pm  

Presidential Welcome and Keynote Speech  

Ben Tarnoff, Keynote Speaker, “Vulgarity from Below Versus Vulgarity from Above: Twain in the Age of Trump”  

**Saturday, August 5**  

8:00am - 8:45am  

Full Breakfast
9:00am - 10:15am   Session Eleven (Plenary Session)

No Paine, No (Posthumous) Twain (Terry Oggel, Panel Chair)

Julie Ward, “The Paine That Twain Met”
Mary Eden, “Building the Brand: How Albert Bigelow Paine Nurtured Mark Twain’s Legacy”
Terry Oggel, “Mark Twain’s ‘particular friend,’ Albert Bigelow Paine”

Alan Gribben, Respondent

10:15am - 10:25am   Refreshments Available

10:30am - 11:15am   Session Twelve

Mark Twain and Economics (Ann Ryan, Panel Chair)

Matthew Seybold, “Chimerica Rising: The Prophetic Political Economy of “Fable of the Yellow Terror”
Lawrence Howe, “Second Thoughts on ‘Jim’s Investments’: Revision and Reinterpretation”
Henry Wonham, “Mark Twain and the Money Supply”

Reading Mark Twain: Here and There (Chad Rohman, Panel Chair)

Allison Ensor, “This Dead Country”: Mark Twain and the Stereotyping of Appalachia”
Pere Gifra-Adroher, “Twain on the Catalan Stage: Notes on Gabriel Timmory’s Adaptation of “How I Edited an Agricultural Paper”
Harold Hellwig, “Innocence at Home’: Mark Twain’s Italian Villa, Stormfield, and the Cultural Influence of Italy on Quarry Farm”

12:00pm - 12:50pm   Lunch

1:00pm - 2:15pm   Session Thirteen

Twain, Politics, and the Power(lessness) of Satire (Bruce Michelson, Panel Chair)

Jeff Steinbrink, “Mark Twain and Fake News”
Judith Yaross Lee, “Assault by Satire: Mark Twain, Henry Stanley, and King Leopold’s Soliloquy”
Holger Kersten, “Mark Twain’s ‘Assault of Laughter’ and the Limits of Political Humor”
Mark Twain, Friends, and Frenemies (Kerry Driscoll, Panel Chair)

Hamada Kassam, “Tom Sawyer Had a Dream and It Shot Him”

Martin Zehr, “Josh Billings: A Forgotten Link”

Yoko Arima, “Influence of Charles Henry Webb on Twain: Rereading of the Californian”

Gary Scharnhorst (Title Not Yet Available)

2:15pm - 2:25pm    Refreshments Available

2:30pm - 3:15pm    Session Fourteen (Plenary Session)

The Place of Mark Twain in Digital Humanities Today (Jeanne Campbell Reesman, Panel Chair)

Andrew Anway, “Digital Mark Twain at the New American Writers Museum”

Jocelyn Chadwick, “Digital Twain and the NCTE”

Shelley Fisher Fishkin, “Global Huck”

Amel Fraisse, “Crowdsourcing for Transnational Texts”

Ronald Jenn, “Huck and Joan Go Digital”

Matthew Seybold, “MarkTwainStudies.org”

Amanda Gagel or Christopher Ohge, “The Mark Twain Project Online”

3:30pm - 5:00pm    Session Fifteen (Plenary Session)

The Assault of Laughter: A Roundtable (Judith Yaross Lee, Panel Chair)

Jennifer Hughes, “WTF Is Laughter to Mark Twain?”

Jeffrey Melton, “When Jokes Go Bad; or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb”

James Caron, “The Pernicious Use of ‘Humorist’ to Describe Mark Twain (and Other Comic Writers)”

Tracy Wuster, “…even the most devout men and busy statesmen must have hours of relaxation”: Some Thoughts on Humor, Entertainment, and Pleasure”

6:00pm - 10:00pm  Quarry Farm Picnic

Sunday, August 6

8:00am - 10:00am  Farewell Breakfast