



**Elmira 2022:
The Ninth International Conference
on the State of Mark Twain Studies**

August 4 – 6, 2022

Elmira College and Quarry Farm
Elmira, New York

Conference Chairs:

Shelley Fisher Fishkin, *Stanford University*
Tracy Wuster, *University of Texas at Austin*

Online Registration at
marktwainstudies.com/elmira2022

Elmira 2022 Conference Schedule

---DRAFT---

(Friday, May 6, 2022)

Wednesday, August 3

8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Registration (*Meier Hall, Morris Classroom*)

Thursday, August 4

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration (*Meier Hall, Morris Classroom*)

8:00 a.m. – 8:50 p.m. Full Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. *Session One*

A. Flash Session: The Changing Landscapes of Author Societies and Other Academic Organizations” (*Tifft Lounge*)
Chair: David E.E. Sloane

- Ben Click
- Tsuyoshi Ishihara
- Judith Yaross Lee
- Bruce Michelson (organizer)
- Rebecca Nisetich
- Jeanne Campbell Reesman
- Tracy Wuster

B. La Familia Clemens: Susy, Jean, Nina (*Gannett-Tripp Library*)
Chair: K. Patrick Ober

- Linda A. Morris, “Susy Clemens: The Final Years (1890-1896)”
- Philip Bauer, “For the Sake of Growth and Change: My Inconsistent Look at the Life of Jean Clemens”
- Alan Rankin, Nina Gabrilowitsch: Actress, Writer, Photographer”

10:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. *Session Two*

A. Flash Session: Mark Twain Studies: Surviving Change, Embracing the Future (*Tifft Lounge*)

Chair: Linda A. Morris

- Erin Bartram
- Joe B. Fulton
- Susan K. Harris (organizer)
- Myrial A. Holbrook
- James W. Leonard
- Matt Seybold
- Mika Turim-Nygren

B. Changing Views of Twain and Imperialism (*Gannett-Tripp Library*)

Chair: Seema Sharma

- Harold Hellwig, “The Political Theatre in Mark Twain’s Illustrated Travel Works”
- Rosie Click, “The [Real] American Game”: Twain’s Thoughts on Soft Imperialism in Cuba
- M.M. Dawley, “‘Only dead men can tell the truth in this world’: The Growth of Mark Twain’s Anger”

12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. Luncheon Buffet

1:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. *Session Three*

Changing Constructions of Mark Twain from the 1950s to the 1980s (*Gibson Theater*)

Chair: Jeffrey Melton

- Tsuyoshi Ishihara, “Time for Change: Mark Twain in US School Textbooks, 1950s–1960s”
- Shelley Fisher Fishkin, “How Hal Holbrook’s Understanding of Mark Twain Grew and Changed Over Time: The First Decade”
- Mark Dawidziak, “*Big River*, Lighting Out for the Tonys”

2:30 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. *Session Four*

A. New Interventions in Twain Biography (*Tifft Lounge*)

Chair: Joseph Lemak

- Judith Yaross Lee, “‘Mr. Stanley, I presume’: Mark Twain’s 1872 Visit to England and His Growth as a Writer”
- Takuya Kubo, “Mark Twain’s Failures as His ‘Neglected Texts’”

- Jeff Steinbrink, “Of Time and Quantum Mechanics in *Roughing It*”
- Katherine Frost, “Evidence for a New Becky Thatcher”

B. No Longer Unknown: Reconsidering Twain’s Neglected Works (*Gannett-Tripp Library*)
Chair: James Caron

- Ben Click, “Twain’s Philosophical Aphorisms for the Damned Human Race: Maxims Toward a Deterministic Philosophy”
- Silas Kaine Ezell, “Deconstructing the Brontosaurus: Mark Twain’s Influence on Critical Theory”
- David Bianculli, “Mark Twain on Christian Science”

4:00 p.m. – 5:20 p.m. *Session Five*

A. The Living, Breathing, Talking, Playing, Lying Mark Twain (*Tifft Lounge*)
Chair: Tsuyoshi Ishihara

- Kerry Driscoll, “Talking is the Thing”: Mark Twain’s Bold Experiment in Empowering Women’s Voices
- Atsushi Sugimura, “‘Her Adored Moral Half-Breed’: Mark Twain’s Refracted Autobiography and His ‘Playing Indian’”
- James Caron, “Mark Twain Lying in Bed”
- Mika Turim-Nygren, “*Huckleberry Finn*’s ‘Effect of Indigeneity’: Native Erasure in Law and Literature”

B. Mark Twain Reading/Reading Mark Twain
Chair: Larry Howe

- Robert Arbour, “Reading the Postbellum in Twain’s ‘Whittier Birthday Speech’”
- James W. Leonard, “‘Absolutely Fresh’: Revising Francis Galton in *Pudd’nhead Wilson*”
- Myrial Holbrook, “Mark Twain, Comically Adapted: The Role of Comic Books and Graphic Novels in Twain’s Legacy”

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. *Happy Hour*

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. *CMTS Awards Dinner*

**8:15 p.m. – 9:15 p.m. “All The Twains Meet: The Film and TV Portrayals” with
David Bianculli and Mark Dawidziak (*Gibson Theater*)**

9:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. *Cash Bar*

Friday, August 5

8:00 a.m. – 8:50 p.m. Full Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. *Session Six*

A. The Cultural Legacy of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (*Tifft Lounge*)

Chair: Kerry Driscoll

- Philip Bader, "Tom Sawyer and Harry Potter, the Boys Who Live"
- Hugh Davis, "'A History of a Boy': Tom Sawyer as Icon"
- Cindy Lovell, "How *Tom Sawyer* Made Hannibal, MO. 'America's Hometown'"
- R. Kent Rasmussen, "The *Tom Sawyer* Movie That Hollywood Got (Almost) Right"

B. The Shifting Global Reception of Mark Twain (*Gannett-Tripp Library*)

Chair: Judith Yaross Lee

- Holger Kersten, The Early Reception of Mark Twain in German-Language Newspapers and Periodicals: New Material from Digital Resources"
- Koto Naganaki, "Mark Twain as Literary Anthropologist: *Letters from the Earth* and Cultural Relativism"
- Timothy Donahue, "*Huckleberry Finn's* Hemispheric Tempest"

10:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. *Session Seven*

A. Flash Session: Grief, Memory, and Mark Twain (*Tifft Lounge*)

Chair: Susan K. Harris

- Joseph Csicsila (organizer)
- Paula Harrington
- Jennifer Hughes
- Jeanne Campbell Reesman
- Chad Rohman
- Tracy Wuster (organizer)

B. Flash Session: Has Our Understanding of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* Grown and Changed? (*Gannett-Tripp Library*)

Chair: John Pascal

- John Bird
- Kerry Driscoll
- Kevin Mac Donnell
- Linda Morris

- Patrick Ober
- Kent Rasmussen (organizer)

12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. Luncheon Buffet

1:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. Session Eight

A. Global Contexts and the Changing Mark Twain (*Tifft Lounge*)

Chair: Paula Harrington

- Seema Sharma, “Why I Still Teach Twain in a Twentieth Century Indian Classroom”
- Faith Ben-Daniels, “Studying Mark Twain’s *The Diaries of Adam and Eve* from a Ghanaian Context”
- Cassio de Oliveira, “Russifying Tom, Huck, and Jim: Soviet Film Adaptations of Mark Twain’s Mississippi Novels”

B. The Ever-Evolving Mark Twain: New and Neglected Works (*Gannett-Tripp Library*)

Chair: John Bird

- Kevin Mac Donnell, “State Banquet Remarks: A Previously Unrecorded Work by Mark Twain”
- John Davis, “The Pursuit of Disappointment: Growth of Status and Growth of Delusion in *The \$30,000 Bequest*”
- Maggie E. Morris, “[H]e realized the shabbiness of his own self: Reading Children in Poverty in Twain’s Adaptation Network”

2:30 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. Session Nine

A. Mark Twain Sites and Their Futures (*Tifft Lounge*)

Chair: Holger Kersten

- Kerry Driscoll, Mark Twain Papers and Project
- Joseph Lemak, The Center for Mark Twain Studies
- James Lundgren and Henry Sweets, Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum
- Pieter Roos, Mark Twain House and Museum

B. Global Perspectives on Mark Twain (*Gannett-Tripp Library*)

Chair: Matt Seybold

- Hamada Kassam, “Travel Is Fatal to Prejudice: The Rise of Mark Twain as a Social Critic and Fictive Abolitionist”
- Asma Ahmad Asiri, “Perceptions of Mark Twain in the Arab World through Translation”

- Ronald Jenn, “The Growth and Change of the Global Huck/Rosetta Project (2017-2021)”

4:00 p.m. – 5:20 p.m. *Session Ten*

New Perspectives on Teaching Twain Today (*Gibson Theater*)

Chair: Tracy Wuster

- Jocelyn Chadwick, “Teaching Mark Twain Today: GenZ, Parents, and Disrupt Texts—What We Need to Know and Understand”
- John Pascal, “*Tom Sawyer* in the Classroom”
- John Bird, “‘Like setting down on a kag of powder and touching it off just to see where you’ll go to’: Reflections on 40 Years of Teaching Mark Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*”

5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. *Happy Hour*

- The Mark Twain Players Perform “The Invalid’s Story,” followed by Dennis Eddings, “Poe, Twain, and Limburger Cheese” Revisited

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. *Dinner*

8:15 p.m. – 9:15 p.m. *CMTS John S. Tuckey Award Presentation and Keynote Address*

9:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. *Cash Bar*

Saturday, August 6

8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m. *Full Breakfast*

9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. *Session Eleven*

Flash Session: How Might Mark Twain Fit into An Anti-Racist Pedagogy? (*Gibson Theater*)

Chair: Ben Click

- Jocelyn Chadwick
- Shelley Fisher Fishkin (organizer)
- Ronald Jenn
- Selina Lai-Henderson
- Terry Oggel
- Seema Sharma
- David E.E. Sloane

10:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. *Session Twelve*

A. New Understandings of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (*Tifft Lounge*)

Chair: Harry Wonham

- Larry Howe, “Property and Freedom on the Mississippi”
- Kumi Ikoma, “Transbellum Perspectives in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*”
- Andrew Touma, “From Spinnin’ Yarns to Spinnin’ Records: Mark Twain’s Phonographic Prescience”

B. Mark Twain and God (*Gannett-Tripp Library*)

Chair: Jeanne Campbell Reesman

- Dwayne Eutsey, “‘Nothing Remains the Same’: Mark Twain’s Ever-Evolving Religious Views”
- George Cabanas, “Avatar of God: Mark Twain versus the Moral Sense and the Implications for the Contemporary World”
- Seth Murray, “Death and the Afterlife in *Captain Stormfield’s Visit to Heaven*”

12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. Luncheon Buffet

1:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. *Session Thirteen*

A. Flash Session: How Do We Teach the Language of *Huckleberry Finn* Now? (*Tifft Lounge*)

Chair: Jocelyn Chadwick

- M.M. Dawley
- Darryl Dickson-Carr
- Larry Howe (organizer)
- Michelle Robinson
- Ann Ryan
- Vershawn Young

B. Changing Perspectives on *Pudd’nhead Wilson* (*Gannett-Tripp Library*)

Chair: Nathaniel Williams

- Thomas W. Howard, “‘Two Stories Tangled Together’: The Double Brain, *Pudd’nhead Wilson* and *Those Extraordinary Twins*”
- K. Patrick Ober, “Mark Twain and Conjoined Twins”
- Terry Oggel, “Mark Twain’s *Pudd’nhead Wilson*: The Tragedy of Nineteenth-Century American Race Law”
- Elizabeth Upshur, “Otherkin: The Emptying, Consolidation, and Protection of Whiteness in *Pudd’nhead Wilson*”

2:30 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. *Session Fourteen*

A. Mark Twain, Philosophy, and Morality (*Tifft Lounge*)

Chair: Chad Rohman

- Alan Goldman, “Huck Finn, Morality, and Racism”
- Elizabeth Cantalamessa, “The Devil and Mark Twain”
- Aleksandra Hernandez, “Disgust, Contempt, and Animal Cruelty in Twain’s Later Writings”

B. Lit out for the Territory: New Approaches to Huck and His Sequels (*Gannett-Tripp Library*)

Chair: Bruce Michelson

- Nathaniel Williams, “Growing to Dislike Tom Sawyer: Sam Clemens’ Journey”
- Robert Slotta, “Important Insights Extracted from the Direct Sequel to *Huckleberry Finn* & Their Impact Upon Mark Twain Studies”
- David Carlyon, “Jim at Huck’s Circus: Twain Stretches History and Reconsiders Race”

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. *Session Fifteen*

Mark Twain Circle Awards

Reconsidering Twain’s Relevance Today (*Gibson Theater*)

Chair: Shelley Fisher Fishkin

- Donald Bliss, “Mark Twain’s Ten Lessons for a Workable Democracy: Or, Keeping the Republic”
- David Bordelon, “Predictive Satire: *Huckleberry Finn* and 21st Century Hucksters”
- Virginia Maresca, “‘Treachery on Both Sides’: Mark Twain’s Lessons to Modern America on White Victimhood”
- Matt Seybold, “Darnella Frazier’s Smartphone & Mark Twain’s Notepad: The Vigilante Origins of American Police”

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Quarry Farm Picnic

Sunday, August 7

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Meier Hall Check-out (*Meier Hall, Morris Classroom*)