

**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](http://www.marktwainstudies.com/elmira2022)

**Elmira 2022 Conference Schedule**

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**(Monday, June 20, 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***

1. 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)
* Jeanne Campbell Reesman
* Tracy Wuster

1. La Familia Clemens: Susy, Jean, Nina (*Gannett-Tripp Library*)

Chair: TBD

* + 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***

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

Chair: Linda A. Morris

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

1. 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 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***

1. New Interventions in Twain Biography and Iconic Texts (*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”
* Jeff Steinbrink, “Of Time and Quantum Mechanics in *Roughing It*”
* Katherine Frost, “Evidence for a New Becky Thatcher”

1. 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***

1. 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”

1. Mark Twain Reading/Reading Mark Twain (*Gannett-Tripp Library)*

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***

1. The Shifting Global Reception of Mark Twain (*Tifft Lounge*)

Chair: Judith Yaross Lee

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

1. Flash Session: Has Our Understanding of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* Grown and Changed? (*Tripp Lecture Hall*)

Chair: TBD

* John Bird
* Hugh Davis
* Kerry Driscoll
* Linda Morris

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

1. Flash Session: Grief, Memory, and Mark Twain *(Gibson Theater*)

Chair: Susan K. Harris

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

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

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

1. 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”

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

Chair: John Bird

* John Davis, “The Pursuit of Disappointment: Growth of Status and Growth of Delusion in *The $30,000 Bequest”*
  + Takuya Kubo, “Mark Twain's Failures as His ‘Neglected Texts’”
  + 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***

1. 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

1. 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. – 5:00 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 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***

1. 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”

1. 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 Thirteen***

1. 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

1. 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*”
* 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***

1. 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”

1. 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*)