



Elmira 2026 Conference Schedule (FINAL)

Wednesday, July 29

Conference participants are welcome to arrive to Elmira College and Meier Hall. Registration is located at the main desk of the Gannett-Tripp Library.

Thursday, July 30

8:00 - 8:50 **Breakfast in Campus Center Dining Hall**

9:00 - 10:20 **Session One**

Panel #1 “Beyond the Page: Adaptations, Sequels, and (Re-)Visions of Mark Twain’s Writings” (Organized by the Mark Twain Circle of America)

Moderator: David E.E. Sloane, University of New Haven

- Jeff Abernathy, Alma College “Buying Innocence: Early Commercial Adaptations of *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn*”
- Don Pellegrino, Independent Scholar “The Science Adventures of Tom & Huck”
- Seema Sharma, University of Mumbai, “Chromatic Instability and the Ethics of Complex Seeing in *Big Jim* and *the White Boy*”

Panel #2 Writing Twain: Letters, Friendship, and Electric Connections

Moderator: Ann Ryan, Le Moyne University

- Emma Adler, Stanford University, “A New Perspective on Mark Twain and Helen Keller’s Friendship”
- Kerry Driscoll, Mark Twain Papers and Project, “‘Not for sin but for sentiment—and stupidity’: Mark Twain’s Brief (and unhappy) Association with the Connecticut Prisoners’ Friends’ Society”
- Terry Oggel, Virginia Commonwealth University, “Twain and Tesla: The Twain *Shall Meet*”

10:30 - 11:50 Session Two

Panel #3 "Abolition Studies" 2021 Quarry Farm Symposium Reprise

Moderator: Nancy Quintanilla, California State Polytechnic University - Pomona

- Alex Alston, Bryn Mawr College, "Br'er Rabbit and the Discourse of Abolition"
- Jess A. Goldberg, New Mexico Highlands University, "Making Dead Kidnappers: Frederick Douglass, Mark Twain, and the Force of Abolition"
- LaVelle Ridley, Ohio State University, "Exploring the Abolitionist Thread that Weaves Black and Trans Women's Literary Cultures Together"

Panel #4 "Science Fiction, Invention, and Technology" 2022 Quarry Farm Symposium Reprise

Moderator: James Caron, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

- Edward Guimont, Bristol Community College, "Twain, Astronomy, and Speculative Fiction"
- Anjalee Gunaratnam, University of Cambridge, "Latimer's Matter: The Decomposition of Self, Hegelian Dialectics, and George Eliot's Physics of Sympathy in 'The Lifted Veil'"
- Patrick Prominski, Grand Rapids Community College, "The Microscopist and Mark Twain: Expanding Twain's Elmira Social Circle and Influence on 'The Great Dark'"

12:00 - 12:50 Lunch in Campus Center Dining Hall

1:00 - 2:20 Session Three

Panel #5 Twain: Rebellion, Revision, and Empire

Moderator: Susan K. Harris, Kansas University

- Bernard J. Dobski, Assumption University, "Resurrecting *Is Shakespeare Dead?*"
- William Hancock, Pennsylvania State University, "'The Enclosed Is Not Fancy, It Is *History*': Mark Twain, Theodore Roosevelt, and the English Civil War in *Fin De Siècle America*"
- Andrew Hebard, "Bosses and Bureaucrats: Twain's Satires of Virtue and Expertise in the Administrative State"

Panel #6 “Arrogance, Autocrats, and Corruption: Mark Twain Critiques the American Political Landscape” (Organized by the Mark Twain Circle of America)

Moderator: Jeanne Campbell Reesman, University of Texas at San Antonio

- David Carlyon, Independent Scholar, “Why Did Huck See a Circus? Why Was Jim Tied Up?”
- Nicholas Otranto, Southeastern Louisiana University “Mark Twain and American Belonging”
- Ann Ryan, LeMoyne College, “Cowards, Critics, and the Untold True Story of ‘The United States of Lyncherdom’”

2:30 - 3:50 Session Four

Panel #7 New Scholarship on *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Moderator: Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Stanford University

- Holger Kersten, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, “Jim in a New Light: Revisiting *Huckleberry Finn* Illustrations in American and German First Editions”
- Takuya Kubo, Kanazawa University, ““Biocultural Reading of *Huckleberry Finn*: Huck's Oscillation Between Body, Thought, and American Dichotomies”
- Jeff Steinbrink, Franklin & Marshall College, “Really? *Huck Finn* and Quantum Entanglement”

Roundtable #1 “Interrogating ‘American’ Humor” (Organized by the American Humor Studies Association)

Moderator: Bruce Michelson, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- James Caron, “The Obfuscation of Walter Blair's title, *Native American Humor*.”
- Judith Yaross Lee, “Understanding the National in American Humor”
- Todd Nathan Thompson, “Hemispheric Humor Studies”

4:00 - 5:20 **Session Five**

Roundtable #2 “Man/Myth/Legend: Working Towards an Audience-Centered Mark Twain House & Museum” (Organized by the Mark Twain House & Museum)

- Erin Bartram, Associate Director for Education at The Mark Twain House & Museum
- Rebecca Floyd, Director of Interpretation at The Mark Twain House & Museum
- Jeffrey Nichols, Executive Director at The Mark Twain House & Museum

5:30 - 6:30 **Happy Hour on the Campus Center Portico**

6:30 - 8:00 **Dinner in the Campus Center Dining Hall**

8:15 - 9:15 **American Vandal Live (Participants TBD)**

9:30 - 12:00 **Cash Bar in Stephens Lounge Meier Hall**

Friday, July 31

8:00 - 8:50 **Breakfast in Campus Center Dining Hall**

9:00 - 10:20 **Session Six**

Panel #8 Twain World/Twain’s World” (Organized by the Literature/Film Association)

Moderator: David Bianculli, Rowan University

- Kristopher Mecholsky, Savannah College of Art and Design, “If It Is Possible to Burlesque That Business: Twain, Detection, and Popular Inheritance”
- Kyle Meikle, University of Baltimore, “Poeland, Twainworld, Kingverse”
- Jack Ryan, Gettysburg College, “The Campaign that Failed: Adapting Mark Twain and War”

Panel #9 (Ir)Reverent Twain

Moderator: John Bird, Winthrop University

- Zsanna Mária Bodor, Baylor University, “Revolution, Revelation: Mark Twain’s *Joan of Arc* as a Gospel of Rebellion”

- Dwayne Eutsey, Independent Scholar, “I Don’t Take No Stock in Dead People’: Mark Twain’s Holy Irreverence”
- Kaine Ezell, Oklahoma Baptist University, “Showing Off’ for Who?: Mark Twain’s Analysis of Spiritual Motivation in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*”

10:30 - 11:50 Session Seven

Panel #10 “Energy Studies” 2024 Quarry Farm Symposium Reprise

Moderator: Matt Seybold, Elmira College

- Stephanie Foote, TBD
- Jeff Insko, TBD
- Alexis Schmidt, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, “Out of This World and Time”: Energy Dreams and A *Connecticut Yankee*”

Panel #11 “Gilded Age Humor” 2023 Quarry Farm Symposium Reprise

Moderator: Teresa Prados-Torreira, Columbia College Chicago

- James Caron, University of Hawai’i at Manoa, "Marietta Holley and the Gilded Age Women's Movement"
- Stephen Rachman, Michigan State University, “Thinking Fast and Slow: Daniel Kahneman and Mark Twain’s 'How to Tell a Story'”
- Todd Thompson, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, "'Siberia,' Rechristened 'Future': Imaginative Mapping Meets Imperial Anxiety in Gilded Age Humor"

12:00 - 12:50 Lunch in Campus Center Dining Hall

1:00 - 2:20 Session Eight

Panel #12 Twain Explores the Natural World

Moderator: Lawrence Howe, Roosevelt University

- Avery Blankenship, “Twain's Fantasy Menu and Visions of American Cuisine”
- Thomas Bryant, Pennsylvania State University, “Attack of the Laughing Jackass: Mark Twain, Alexis Wright, and Interspecies Violence”
- Christopher Gilbert, Assumption University, “Darwin Be Damned”

Panel #13 The Clemens Household

Moderator: Barbara Snedecor, Elmira College

- Kumi Ikoma, Tokyo Metropolitan University, “The Defiant Daughter and the Silent Father: “Wapping Alice” and Susy Clemens”
- Kevin Mac Donnell, Independent Scholar, Mark Twain’s Black Muse: The Life and Legacy of His Butler, George Griffin”
- Alan Rankin, Independent Scholar, “In Their Right Minds: Livy, Clara, Nina, and ‘Americanitis’”

2:30 - 3:50 **Session Nine**

Panel #14 Love and Death

Moderator: Avery Blankenship, Texas A&M University

- John Bird, Winthrop University, “Irreverent Humor on Death and Dying: Mark Twain’s ‘The Undertaker’s Tale’”
- Kotaro Nakagaki, Senshu University, “Dictating Grief: Writing as Mourning in Mark Twain's *Autobiography*”
- Susan Poulson, University of Scranton, “Love, Marriage, and Murder: Samuel Clemens and the Perils of Passion”

Roundtable #3 “Women Writers in the Time of Mark Twain” (Organized by the Mark Twain Circle of America)

Moderator: Judith Yaross Lee, Ohio University

- James Caron, University of Hawai’i at Manoa - Sara Willis Parton (Fanny Fern)
- Susan K. Harris, Kansas University - Kate Wiggin
- Linda A. Morris, University of California, Davis - Frances Whitcher (The Widow Bedott)
- Miki Pfeffer, Independent Scholar - Grace King
- Barbara Snedecor, Elmira College - Women writers identified by Olivia Langdon Clemens

4:00 - 5:20 **Session Ten**

Roundtable #4 “*Mark Twain Day by Day: A Digital Scholarly Resource for the Next Generation*”

- Gillian MacDonald, Michigan State University
- Stephen Rachman, Michigan State University
- Dean Rehberger, Michigan State University
- Alicia Sheill, Michigan State University

5:30 - 6:30 **Happy Hour on the Campus Center Portico**

6:30 - 8:00 **Dinner in the Campus Center Dining Hall**

8:15 - 9:15 **Keynote Address- Location TBD**

9:30 - 12:00 **Cash Bar in Stephens Lounge Meier Hall**

Saturday, August 1

8:00 - 8:50 **Breakfast in Campus Center Dining Hall**

9:00 - 10:20 **Session Eleven**

Panel #15 Transnational Twain

Moderator: Holger Kersten, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg

- Ryuzo Hamamoto, “An Unrealized Connection between Japan and Twain: Hannah Riddell’s Letter and Its Transnational Context”
- Harold Hellwig, “*Connecticut Yankee and Innocents Abroad: Catholicism and Antithesis; Pilgrimage, Conversion, Reverence, and Betrayal*”
- Jeanne Reesman, University of Texas at San Antonio, “The ‘Australasian Spartans’ of Tasmania: Classical Allusion as Satire in *Following the Equator*”

Panel #16 Comic Laughter as Dissent (Organized by American Humor Studies Association)

Moderator: Todd Nathan Thompson, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

- Edward Charnley, Lehman College, “David R. Locke and Petroleum V. Nasby: Satire, Politics, and Race, 1862-1867.”

- Teresa Prados-Torreira, Columbia College Chicago, “*Good Morning: A Humorous Magazine Fights Back after World War I.*”
- Emily VanDette, State University of New York at Fredonia, “Feminist as F***: Satirical Responses to Misogyny in the Public Sphere”

10:30 - 11:50 **Session Twelve**

Panel #17 Performing Twain

Moderator: Mark Dawidziak, Independent Scholar

- David Bianculli, Rowan University, “A Liverpool Beatle in Mark Twain’s Court”
- Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Stanford University, “The Transgressive Power of “Mark Twain Tonight!””
- Harry Wonham, University of Oregon, “‘The insanest of all recreations’: Mark Twain as an After-Dinner Speaker”

Panel #18 Mark Twain Confronts the West(ern)

Moderator: Kerry Driscoll, Mark Twain Papers and Project

- Steven Bretherick, Independent Scholar, “War, Twain, and General Tom Sawyer”
- Kaori Hosono, Keio University “Sensationalist Roots and Radical Rebellions: Newspaper Clippings as Moral Catalysts in Mark Twain’s *Autobiography*”
- James W. Leonard, ““Enumerating Myth: *Roughing It* and the Disorder of Things”

12:00 - 12:50 **Lunch in Campus Center Dining Hall**

1:00 - 2:20 **Session Thirteen**

Panel #19 Mark Twain: Reluctant Romantic

Moderator: Linda A. Morris, University of California, Davis

- Mark Dawidziak, “Mark Twain and Edgar Allan Poe: ‘Those Two Scarecrow Figures’”
- Sarah Ingle, Howard University, “Medieval Race Studies and Chivalric Whiteness in Twain’s *Connecticut Yankee*”
- Tsuyoshi Ishihara, “From *The Black Avenger* to *Tom Sawyer*: Romantic Adventure Fiction and Mark Twain”

Roundtable #5 Updates from the Major Mark Twain Sites

- Kerry Driscoll, Associate Editor at the Mark Twain Papers and Project (Berkeley, CA)
- Joseph Lemak, Director of the Center for Mark Twain Studies (Elmira, NY)
- Jeffrey Nichols, Executive Director of the Mark Twain House and Museum (Hartford, CT)
- Megan Rapp, Executive Director of the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum (Hannibal, MO)

2:30 - 3:50 Session Fourteen

Panel #20 Exaggerating Reports of his Death: Reading Mark Twain in the 21st Century

Moderator: Matt Seybold, Elmira College

- Gregg Camfield, University of California, Merced, “Is He Dead?”
- Bruce Michelson, “Mark Twain and the Legacies of Satire”
- Laura Rice, Oregon State University, “From Twain to Trump: A Genealogy of Incivility”

4:00 - 9:00 Picnic at Quarry Farm

8:00 - 12:00 Cash Bar in Stephens Lounge Meier Hall

Sunday, August 2

All participants lodging in Meier Hall need to check-out by Noon.

If you are enrolled in the Quarry Farm Graduate Student Workshop, you do not need to check out. You will be lodging in your current room.