

# Call for Proposals

## Writing the Midwest: A Symposium of Scholars and Writers

The Annual Symposium of the  
Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature  
in its 52<sup>nd</sup> year

June 2 – 4, 2022  
Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, East Lansing, MI

Join us in East Lansing as we meet again to celebrate Midwestern literature, scholarship, and writing. Founded in 1971, the vision of the society is to “encourage and assist the study of Midwestern literature in whatever directions the insight, imagination, and curiosity of its members may lead.” We are thrilled to be able to return to gathering in person, to enjoy old friends and meet new ones.

### Proposals

We welcome proposals for panels, individual papers, and roundtables on Midwestern literature, and readings of original creative work with a Midwestern emphasis.

We especially seek proposals that complicate stereotypical notions of the Midwest as a rural, white, “heartland” space. Such papers might take advantage of our conference location in Chicago, or they might articulate the diversity of the Midwestern experience by examining the rich and ongoing tradition of writing by Black, Native American, Latinx, Asian, LGBTQ, and disabled authors.

Proposals related to the work of the 2022 Mark Twain Award winner, Gerald Vizenor—as well as to the 2020 winner, Marilynne Robinson, and the 2021 winner, Rebecca Makkai, are especially invited. Please see the website for details on these and other specific panels.

Deadline: **no later than Jan. 1, 2022.**  
Find the link to an online proposal form at **[ssml.org/symposium](https://ssml.org/symposium)**.

### Book Display and Sales

A long-time feature of this conference is an informal book display and sales area. This was begun many years ago by poets who displayed, exchanged, and sold their chapbooks and other productions. Participants are encouraged to bring books for display and sales (checks preferred). We also invite small presses to set up displays.

### Student scholarships for travel

Joseph Wydeven Scholarships are available to students whose proposals are accepted. Application for a scholarship must be made with the proposal, deadline Jan. 1, 2022.

The scholarship will cover the following:

- the membership fee for one year,
- one ticket for the awards banquet, and
- some reimbursement to help defray travel and hotel accommodations (based on distance travelled).

### Registration and housing

Information about housing may be found at [ssml.org/symposium](https://ssml.org/symposium). Registration forms will be available in late fall.

### Prizes

SSML sponsors three \$250 prizes for unpublished original work read at the symposium in poetry, creative prose, and literary criticism.

There is also a \$1,000 prize for student work in any genre. Winning entries in all four contests will be published in a volume of *MidAmerica*.