

The Transatlantic Walt Whitman Association is pleased to announce

The Thirteenth Annual International Whitman Week Seminar and Symposium
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
8 June – 14 June, 2020

Invitation for Applications to the 13th Transatlantic Walt Whitman Seminar

Founded in Paris in 2007, the Transatlantic Walt Whitman Association (TWWA) invites students, researchers, and Whitman enthusiasts to participate in its 13th annual Whitman Week, consisting of a Seminar for students interested in Whitman and Whitman’s poetry, and a Symposium bringing together international scholars and graduate students. The Whitman Weeks started at TU Dortmund University, Germany (2008), and continued at Université François-Rabelais, Tours, France (2009), Università degli Studi di Macerata, Italy (2010), Universidade Estadual Paulista, Araquara, Brazil (2011), Szczecin University, Poland (2012), Northwestern University, Chicago, USA (2013), Otto-Friedrich-University Bamberg, Germany (2014), Ludwig-Maximilian-University in Munich, Germany (2015), University of Exeter, England (2016), Université Paris-Est, Créteil, France (2017), TU Dortmund University (2018), and, for the Whitman Bicentennial at New York University, New York City, USA (2019). In 2020, the Whitman Week will take place for the first time in the Italian capital, Rome.



The Walt Whitman Week venue will be the **Edificio Marco Polo** (in the lively, historic neighborhood of San Lorenzo, a ten-minute walk from the Sapienza “Città universitaria,” the university main campus)

TWWA's Mission

Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* remains a landmark of modern poetry and world literature. Every year new editions of Whitman's work are published in a variety of languages; an ever-expanding group of poets "reply" to him in their poetry; his poems are set to music and are quoted in films; he is invoked in the discussion of political and cultural issues, as well as of gender and sexuality; and he continues to be a huge presence in college and university curricula globally. In order to respond adequately to this international phenomenon, TWWA sponsors a yearly International Whitman Seminar, during which students from different countries come together for an intensive, credit-bearing course taught by an international team of Whitman specialists.

Seminar Structure

In the morning classes, focusing on some of Whitman's major poems and selections from his prose, students will have an opportunity to confront Whitman's books, share their readings of key poems and clusters, and discuss Whitman's cohesive representation of human relations and his work's international significance. Afternoon translation workshops will focus on the reception of Whitman in various countries, as well as the translation of his poems into different languages.

Faculty

The team of international instructors of this year's seminar come from three European countries, Italy, Portugal, and the United States.

Marina Camboni, Professor emerita of American Literature at University of Macerata, Italy; co-Founder of the TWWA and the organizer of the 2010 Whitman Week in Macerata; former President of AISNA, the Italian Association of North American Studies; author of *Walt Whitman, Utopia in the Present Tense: Walt Whitman and the Language of the New World* (1992), *Il corpo dell'America: Leaves of Grass 1855* (1990), and *Walt Whitman e la lingua del mondo nuovo* (2004); *H.D. La donna che divenne il suo nome* (2007), *H.D.'s Poetry "the meanings that words hide"* (2003).

Jaime Costa, Professor of American Studies University of Minho, Portugal, and translator into Portuguese of Whitman's *Democratic Vistas* (*Visões Democráticas* [2012]) and his various prefaces to *Leaves of Grass* (*Prefácios a Folhas de Erva* [2019]).

Ed Folsom, Professor of American Literature at the University of Iowa; co-director of the online Walt Whitman Archive; editor of the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review*; author, co-author and editor of over a dozen Whitman-related books, including, most recently, *Song of Myself with a Complete Commentary* (2016), co-authored with Christopher Merrill; *Walt Whitman's Democratic Vistas: A Facsimile of the Original Edition* (2010); *Re-Scripting Walt Whitman* (2007), co-authored with Kenneth M. Price; *Whitman Making Books/Books Making Whitman* (2005); and *Whitman East and West: New Contexts for Reading Walt Whitman* (2002).

Zachary Turpin, Professor of American Literature at University of Idaho; discovered and edited Whitman's second novella, *Life and Adventures of Jack Engle*, 1852, and his pseudonymous wellness manifesto *Manly Health and Training*, 1858; he is the co-editor of volume 3 of Whitman's *Journalism* (in the *Collected Writings of Walt Whitman*), and, with Matt Miller, the editor of Whitman's notebooks, forthcoming in the Iowa Whitman Series.

Translation seminars will be directed by three prominent Whitman translators: **Éric Athenot** (University of Paris-Est Créteil), translator into French of the 1855 *Leaves of Grass*, *Collect*, and *Drum-Taps and Sequel to Drum-Taps (1865-1866)* (forthcoming); **Walter Grünzweig** (TU Dortmund University), author of the definitive study of Whitman in German-speaking countries and translator of the 1855 *Leaves* into Austrian German; **Igina Tattoni** (University of Macerata), translator into

Italian of the 1856 *Leaves of Grass*; **Marta Skwara** (University of Szczecin), author of a study of Whitman's reception in Polish.

Housing

International students will live together at no charge with Sapienza students, thus creating opportunities for meaningful intercultural dialogue.

Applications for the Seminar

Applications for the seminar should include a curriculum vitae, a one-page statement of interest, and a short letter of support from an instructor who knows the applicant well. All of these materials, including the letter of recommendation, should be submitted by e-mail to the Rome organizers, Giorgio Mariani (giorgio.mariani@uniroma1.it), and Daphne Orlandi (daphne.orlandi@gmail.com) by **February 1, 2020**. If you have any questions about the International Whitman Week 2020, do not hesitate to contact the organizers at any time.

Symposium

Students are expected to attend and invited to apply to take part in the Symposium, held immediately following the Seminar, and featuring scholarly papers by Whitman scholars and graduate students from various countries. A separate paper proposal must be submitted in order to participate in the Symposium. This year's Symposium theme is "War and Peace: Whitman's Civil War Writings."

Call for Papers

The Transatlantic Walt Whitman Association is pleased to announce an open call for papers

War and Peace: Whitman's Civil War Writings

Sapienza University of Rome

Friday, 12 June and Saturday, 13 June 2020

Whitman's Civil War writings are vast and various—from the poetry he collected in *Drum-Taps* (1865) to his prose recollections of the war in *Memoranda During the War* (1875-76)—and they range from early enthusiastic support for the war effort to a much more tempered examination of the war's "convulsions" and trauma that came as a result of his work in the Civil War hospitals. This symposium invites papers that deal with Whitman's war writings in fresh and original ways. Is his writing during the 1861-1865 period a literature of war or a literature of peace? What new insights do the recent fields of trauma theory and disability studies offer to us for reading his hospital writings? How did Whitman's experiences in the war and memories of his hospital work affect and alter his post-Civil War writing? How does his Civil War poetry relate to other poetry written during the war (including Melville's)? What were Whitman's attitudes toward the Confederacy and Confederate soldiers? Where do the issues of slavery and emancipation appear in these writings? We welcome papers that deal with these and other questions that emerge from a re-examination of Whitman's writing during the Civil War.

This symposium invites scholars and artists from all fields to contribute. As part of the symposium, a student research poster session for attending students on any topic dealing with Whitman is planned.

One-page abstracts of paper proposals should be sent electronically, no later than February 1, 2020, to all four symposium organizers:

Stephanie M. Blalock: stephanie-blalock@uiowa.edu

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