

The American Short Story: New Horizons

Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany
October 5-7, 2017

The conference "The American Short Story: New Horizons" addresses fresh and original questions relevant to studying the American short story:

- how the genre works as performance in itself
- how it conveys a theory of culture in which aesthetic structures and the presentation of cultural problematics interrelate
- how the short story and the practices of text-making are related to the cultures of print in which textual circulation and economic exchange are homologues
- how we can read the short story as an expressive form alongside its material dimensions, its vitality of forms (i.e., short-short fiction, flash fiction), and the multiple meanings of such concepts as authorship and genre
- how we can reassess the short story as a field to map out exchanges not just among authors, but also among editors, publishers, reviewers, readers, and the physical text, with its advertisements, illustrations, and editorial changes

The conference thus seeks to explore the American short story as a coming together of the enduring narrative practice of compression and concision in American literature, presently culminating in a digital culture in which brevity rules.

www.obama-institute.com