



CALL FOR PAPERS

Robert Penn Warren Circle Annual Meeting

April 4-6, 2024

*Hosted by the Robert Penn Warren Birthplace Committee
and the City of Guthrie*

Guthrie, Kentucky

Rewriting and Reinterpreting RPW across Literature and Culture

All the King's Men has been called “the most emulated political novel ever written in the United States.” Beyond overt rewritings of this famous novel, Warren’s influence on literature and other forms of media and culture has been far reaching. Warren published over 20 books of poetry and 10 novels, not to mention short story collections, literary criticism, textbooks on how to write and interpret literature that became standard for students for decades, and essays on some of the most pressing issues of his time. Suffice to say, for writers in the US (and many beyond), his shadow is long.

There are numerous novels and poems of the past half century in which Warren’s influence is clear. More recently, his influence has become less obvious but no less important or interesting, with references to Warren noticed everywhere from Natasha Tretheway’s last lecture as poet laureate to television shows such as *True Detective*. Generations of literary critics have been compelled to examine Warren’s own influences, from Conrad to Melville to Faulkner. This year’s meeting invites participants to consider Warren’s influence on other writers and on culture more broadly.

We are especially interested in proposals addressing the following:

Literary works that echo Warren’s works, for example *Primary Colors*, *The Book of Daniel*

- Popular culture where Warren’s influence can be observed, for example *True Detective*, *The Last King of Scotland*, *Deadwood*
- Warren’s influence on literary criticism or pedagogy
- The resonance of Warren’s essays on political issues on contemporary political discourse

Not later than February 2, 2024, please send proposals to
Circle Secretary Kyle Taylor via email at rpwcircle@gmail.com

We invite abstracts for papers, panels, or roundtables addressing any aspect of Robert Penn Warren’s work, not just the meeting’s theme. For panel proposals, please include panel title, name and affiliation of each presenter, and individual abstracts of 50 – 100 words with paper title. For individual paper proposals, please send paper title and abstract of 50-100 words. For roundtables, please send an abstract of 50-100 words and a brief bio of each speaker.

Undergraduate and graduate students are welcome to propose individual papers (15 minutes in length) or panels of 3-4 speakers. If your abstract is accepted, and you wish to be considered for the Eleanor Clark Award, which carries a stipend of \$100, please send your completed paper to rpwcircle@gmail.com by March 7, 2024.