

**SAMLA's 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference**  
*Scandal! Literature & Provocation: Breaking Rules, Making Texts*

Plenary Speaker: [Gerald Prince](#)

November 13 – 15, 2020 | [Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront](#) | [Jacksonville, Florida](#)  
<https://samla.memberclicks.net/>

**Note:** Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, this conference was transitioned into a purely virtual conference using the Accelevents platform.

The South Atlantic Modern Language Association takes pride in its long-standing commitment to fostering scholarly discussions across literatures, languages, pedagogy, and the intermedial spaces of our diverse academic fields and backgrounds. Our members—scholars, educators, and students—advance the reading and understanding of numerous textual modes of representation and the ways in which linguistic and textual coding may be understood as a polyvalent tool leading to social change and interdisciplinary progress.

The theme of SAMLA 92—*Scandal! Literature and Provocation: Breaking Rules, Making Texts*—invites us to think through the optics of scandal, transgression, and rebellion, as these themes apply to literary, historical, political, and interdisciplinary inquiries, reading practices, and pedagogical innovation. What defines scandal? In what ways do texts (literary, theoretical, and linguistic) break with canonical codes and traditions to challenge societal norms and to offer alternate readings of experience? In what ways and to what ends have scandals served as the springboard for creation? How do scandals elevate the visibility of individuals and communities? To what degree does creation depend on getting out of one's comfort zone—as an artist, as a reader, as a spectator, or as an educator or student?

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**Special Session, Panel 09-12, Sat. Nov. 14, 3:30pm-5:00pm eastern standard time:**  
**Scandalous Profession(al)s: Sovereignty, Authority, and Secrecy**

**Chair:** Paul Blom, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Co-Chair:** Desire Ameigh, Wallace Community College

**Presenters:**

Samantha Gilmore, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

“The Baltimore *Observer*'s ‘Fierce FURY,’ Beatrice Ironside”

Meghan Hodges, Louisiana State University

“Birthing a Nation, Adopting Literature: Classical Reception in *Entre Naranjos* by Vicente Blasco Ibáñez”

Rachelle Cho, Independent scholar

“*Una Mala Vida?* Alzheimer's Disease, Cultures of Care, and Structural Healthcare Disparities among Chicanos in New Jersey”

**Call-for-Papers** (<https://samla.memberclicks.net/calls-for-papers#interdisciplinarystudies>):

This panel welcomes proposals for papers or projects addressing any aspect of professional sovereignty, authority, or secrecy within or between professions. We invite conversations about the functions or representations of sovereignty, authority, or secrecy within any genre of Literature.

In the introduction to his book *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*, Paul Starr writes, “Power, at the most rudimentary personal level, originates in dependence, and the power of the professions primarily originates in dependence upon their knowledge and competence.... [T]heir interpretations often govern our understanding of the world and our own experience. To most of us, this power seems legitimate” (4). Starr closely examines and tracks the sovereignty and authority of the medical profession within and about the United States. More broadly, however, he provides a model for narrativizing the developments and trajectories of sovereignty and authority within larger and more complex cultural, political, economic, and social systems.

The pursuit or maintenance of professional sovereignty and/or cultural authority creates a narrative that inherently contains issues of sectarianism, secrecy, feuding, transgression, rebellion, and ultimately, scandal. Such narratives afford discussions on a broad array of topics both within and about Literature.

Potential topics regarding the pursuit of professional sovereignty and its relation to scandal include, but are not limited to:

- the production and/or consumption of literary texts
- the production and/or consumption of literary analysis
- the training of literary scholars and instructors
- literary representations of specific professions or industries
- literary representations of socioeconomic, cultural, or political authority either in flux or as barriers to access
- specific literary genres and their internal traditions/motifs of sovereignty or external expressions of sovereignty

Please submit a 300-word abstract or proposal, a brief bio, and any A/V requests by July 21, 2020 to Paul Blom, UNC-Chapel Hill, at [paulblom@live.unc.edu](mailto:paulblom@live.unc.edu).