MLA 2023, San Francisco - CFP: “Provincial Working Conditions in Pirandello: Sicily, the South, and the Mediterranean”

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The Pirandello Society of America invites the submission of abstracts for inclusion on our guaranteed MLA panel at the next convention. The topic of the 2023 panel is “Provincial Working Conditions in Pirandello: Sicily, the South, and the Mediterranean.”

The question of “southernness” in Pirandello’s works has been a source of fruitful investigation for some time. In this panel, we propose to reexamine the notion of Pirandello’s “south” in relation to the question posed by the MLA 2023 Presidential Theme of “working conditions.” The panel will consider both how labor/work is represented in Pirandello’s works and how conditions of labor/work impact and shape Pirandello’s context. Likewise, the panel will consider how the “provincial” character of Pirandello’s south can be nuanced and reconceived in relation to new critical discourses on the global south, race, and the transnational Mediterranean.

From poetry and short stories rooted in Pirandello’s experience of his father’s sulfur mines to his novels and plays and their treatments of Sicily, provincial life, and the realities of work and labor, Pirandello’s corpus provides a rich archive of material ripe for consideration in connection with these questions. The complex realities of his historical context impacted both his own working conditions as well as those of the theater-makers and other artists and writers with whom Pirandello worked in the long span of his career. We invite consideration of themes including, but not limited to:

- Economic conditions of labor
- Social conditions of labor
• Literary/artistic representations of labor
• Working conditions of literary/artistic production
• Sicilian theater and working conditions (of actors, impresarios, etc.)
• Historical context of working conditions in Sicily and the south
• Issues of language and dialect as they intersect with southernness and/or labor
• Issues of race and/or ethnicity
• Sicily and the global south
• Sicily and the Mediterranean

Abstracts (~300 words) and short bios should be sent via email to msubialka@ucdavis.edu and lsarti@bmcc.cuny.edu by March 25, 2022.

Related date:
March 12, 2022 to March 25, 2022