

Call for Papers
2025 EALA Annual Conference
Disease and Death

Conference Co-organizers:
English and American Literature Association (EALA, Taiwan), National Taipei
University of Education and University of Taipei

Date: October 18, 2025
Venue: National Taipei University of Education

In people's "distribution of the sensible," disease and death are two awkward issues that are seeable, yet unsayable. In works of English literature, however, there are various ways to represent these two motifs. *Beowulf*, for instance, started with the ship burial of Shield Sheafson, the first King of Denmark, and ended with the cremation of Beowulf. With the deaths of those two kings, the whole epic pervaded with a tone of elegy and revealed an uncertainty of life in the world of heroes. Alfred Tennyson, as the waves were breaking on the shore, accentuated the speaker's grievousness over a good friend's death with a sharp contrast between joy and loss. Tom Stoppard ridiculed a whodunit by laying a corpus on the stage throughout the performance. Edgar Allen Poe created a creepy atmosphere through a lunatic first-person narrator with an extraordinarily acute sense of hearing. Katherine Anne Porter mimicked a dying granny's distraction with a stream-of-consciousness technique. John Green made his readers reexamine the meaning and value of life with a romance of two teenage cancer patients. There are countless examples like this in English literature; therefore, disease and death are not only sayable, but also loquacious.

Disease and death have different functions in the narrative structures of literature, and their representations are affected by spatio-temporal milieus, ideologies, and developments in medical technology. In short, literary representations of disease and death are deeply influenced by the social-historical contexts. Inspecting disease and death in literature with Michel Foucault's idea of "discourse," one may see a complex relationship between literary representations of disease and death and a certain social mainstream discourse. That relationship involves integration, strengthening, revision, resistance, etc. So, how representations of disease and death in literature shaped or challenged medical, health, and life discourses, and how those discourses influenced representations of disease and death become topics worthy of investigation. Besides that, philosophers or political theorists like Georges Canguilhem, Giorgio Agamben,

and Achille Mbembe also shed light on the issues of disease and death. If one delves into the topic through different theories and perspectives, one can thoroughly examine the relationship between disease/death and say, gender, queerness, politics, colonization, death drive, life education, or patient subjectivity, and thus enrich the meaning and practicality of literary representation of disease and death.

The conference welcomes contributors from all over the world. Potential topics include, but not limited to the following motifs:

- Representations of disease and death
- Violence and death in popular literature
- Literature and medical discourse
- Disease and gender
- Disease and aging
- Disease and colony
- Neuronormativity and neurodiversity
- Children and bereavement
- Disease and identity (gender, race, class, LGBTQ, species)
- Technology, culture, and disease
- Politics of disease
- Body and autonomy of patients
- Doctor, witch-doctor, healer, quack as a detective
- Mass mortality: genocide, war, natural disaster, and plague
- Disability and normalization

Please submit abstracts of 300-500 words (with a title and five keywords, for individual papers and pre-formed panels) and brief bios (which include name, title, affiliations, selected publications, contacts of each of the presenters) to wclai@mail.ntue.edu.tw by February 15, 2025.

Notification of acceptance: Before March 10, 2025

Full paper submission deadline: October 11, 2025

※Before participating in the conference and publishing your paper, you must have or obtain an EALA membership.

※EALA encourages contributors to submit a revised version of their paper to the “Review of British and American Literature,” which is a THCI first-level journal, after the conference.

2025 年英美文學學會徵稿啟事

疾病與死亡

主辦單位：中華民國英美文學學會、國立臺北教育大學及臺北市立大學

會議日期：2025 年 10 月 18 日

會議地點：國立臺北教育大學

在群眾的感知配置(distribution of the sensible)裡，疾病與死亡是可見(seeable)卻不可說(unsayable)的尷尬議題。但在英文文學作品裡，這兩個母題(motif)卻呈現出五花八門的再現樣貌：《貝武夫》(*Beowulf*)始於丹麥王 Shield Sheafson 的船葬，終於貝武夫的火葬，首尾的君王之死讓整首詩瀰漫著輓歌的基調，呈現英雄世界裡生命的不可確定性；丁尼生(Alfred Tennyson)在海濤拍岸的節奏中，藉由歡愉與失落的對比，凸顯詩人對好友離世的哀慟；史塔佩(Tom Stoppard)的獨幕劇讓一具屍體從頭到尾躺在舞台上，藉此嘲諷偵探故事(whodunit)；愛倫坡(Edgar Allan Poe)藉由聽覺異常敏銳的瘋癲敘述者創造出詭譎的故事氛圍；波特(Katherine Anne Porter)以意識流的手法模擬老奶奶瀕死時的神識渙散；格林(John Green)刻畫兩位癌友相互扶持、共同成長的愛情故事，讓讀者得以重新審視生命的意義與價值。諸如此類的例子繁不勝舉。因此，在英文文學範疇內，疾病與死亡不僅是可言說的(sayable)，甚至可稱為絮絮叨叨(loquacious)、眾說紛紜。

疾病與死亡在文學的敘述結構中具有不同的功能，而再現的內容也受到不同時空環境、意識形態、科技醫療發展的牽動。簡言之，文學所呈現的疾病與死亡深受歷史社會脈絡的影響，借用傅柯的「論述」概念，疾病與死亡的文學再現與某種社會主流論述具有交融、強化、修正、抗拒等複雜的關係。因此，「作品裡有關疾病與死亡的敘述如何形塑或挑戰醫療/健康/生命論述」以及「醫療/健康/生命論述如何影響文學作品中疾病與死亡的再現」就成為值得探討的議題。另外，康居朗(Georges Canguilhem)、阿甘本(Georgio Agamben)、姆本貝(Achille Mbembe)等哲學家或政治理論家也論及相關議題。在此，藉由不同的理論與觀點深究英美文學與文化中的疾病與死亡，也能帶出性別、酷兒、殖民、死亡驅力、生命教育、病患主體性等議題，豐富文學中疾病與死亡再現的意義與實用性。

此次研討會誠摯邀請各方來稿，論文可與以下子題相關，若為延伸更佳：

- 疾病與死亡的再現
- 流行文類的暴力與死亡
- 文學與醫療論述
- 疾病與性別

- 疾病與衰老
- 神經規範性(neuronormativity)與神經多樣性(neurodiversity)
- 兒童與喪親之痛
- 疾病與身分認同(性別、種族、階級、LGBTQ、物種)
- 科技、文化、與疾病
- 疾病政治學
- 病人的身體；病患自主性
- 醫師、巫醫、治癒者、江湖郎中作為偵探
- 大規模死亡:滅族、戰爭、天災、瘟疫
- 殘障與常態化(normalization)

有意投稿者請將 300-500 字的論文摘要(含標題與至少五個關鍵字)與簡歷(含姓名、職稱、任職機構、代表作列舉)以電子郵件寄至:wclai@mail.ntue.edu.tw

論文摘要截稿日期: 2025 年 2 月 15 日

論文接受通知: 2025 年 3 月 10 日前

論文全文上傳: 2025 年 10 月 11 日

※參加會議發表論文之前，必須具備或取得英美文學學會會員資格。

※英美文學學會鼓勵投稿人會後將論文修訂版投稿至《英美文學評論》(該刊為 THCI 第一級期刊)。